



What is the Service?

Parks Services supports the recreational and leisure needs of the community. Parkland, both maintained and natural, enhances quality of life, economic, cultural, environmental well-being of the community; and is a key component in sustainability plans.

Specific objectives include:

- Clean, safe, welcoming parks and natural spaces for all residents to enjoy
- Opportunities for physical activity including both recreational and competitive sports



Influencing Factors

Demographics and Community Use: Community/Resident demand for parks usage has increased in recent years particularly for large, social gatherings and various cultural activities (i.e. specialty fields, cultural gardens, community gardens, dogs-off-leash areas, special events etc.). While these activities increase parks usage, they also translate into higher maintenance and signage costs, as well as increased staff training requirements. Operating costs related to these contemporary activities vary across municipalities; and are not captured separately.

Geography: Varying topography affects the number of hectares, e.g. size of escarpment, number of lakes, transportation networks.

Maintenance Levels: Level of management applied to natural areas in parks, e.g. ecological restoration projects, community naturalization projects.

Mix of Maintained and Natural Parkland: Maintained parks can include a number of amenities and usually involve turf maintenance programs, all of which typically are more costly on a per hectare basis than the costs of maintaining forests or other natural areas.

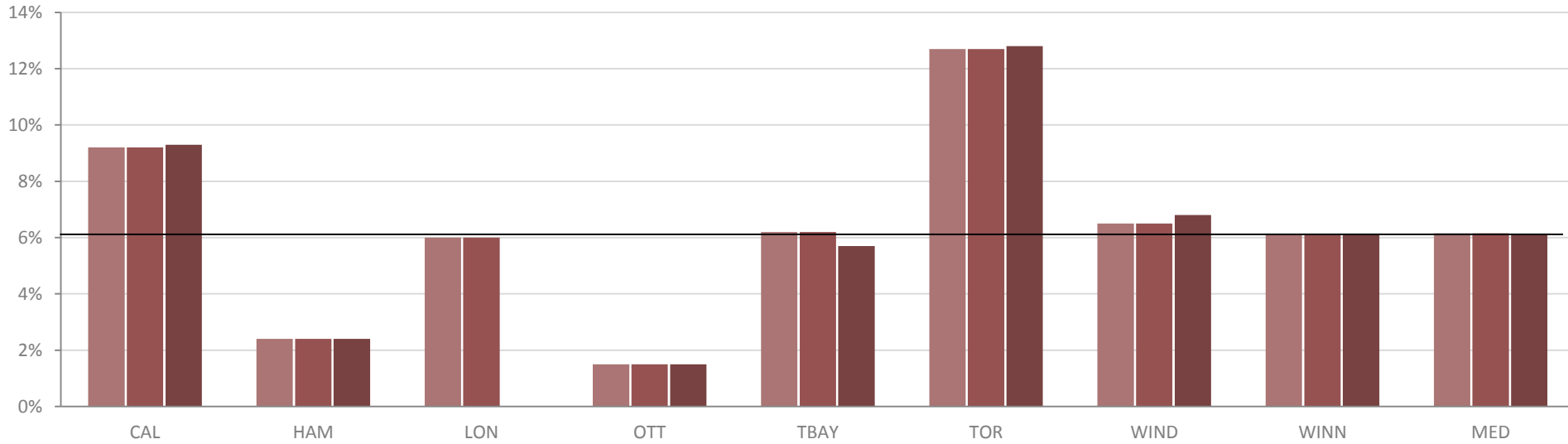
Service Standards: Differences between municipalities in the amenities available (greenhouses, washrooms, playgrounds), as well as the standards to which those parks are maintained, such as the frequency of grass cutting. There can also be differences in the costs of maintaining certain sports fields i.e. Class A, B, C and D class fields (soccer, football, baseball).

Weather Conditions: Weather conditions and the length of growing seasons affect all municipalities differently, however as we continue to experience more frequent and intense weather changes, operating costs are impacted.

Parks

What percent of the municipality is parkland?

Fig 22.1 All Parkland in Municipality as a Percent of Total Area of Municipality



2012	9.20%	2.40%	6.00%	1.50%	6.20%	12.70%	6.50%	6.10%	6.15%
2013	9.20%	2.40%	6.00%	1.50%	6.20%	12.70%	6.50%	6.10%	6.15%
2014	9.30%	2.40%	N/A	1.50%	5.70%	12.80%	6.80%	6.10%	6.10%

Source: PRKS125 (Community Impact)

Note: Municipalities with a predominant urban form may find it more difficult to establish new or expand existing parks within the developed core area.

How much parkland is available per 100,000 population?

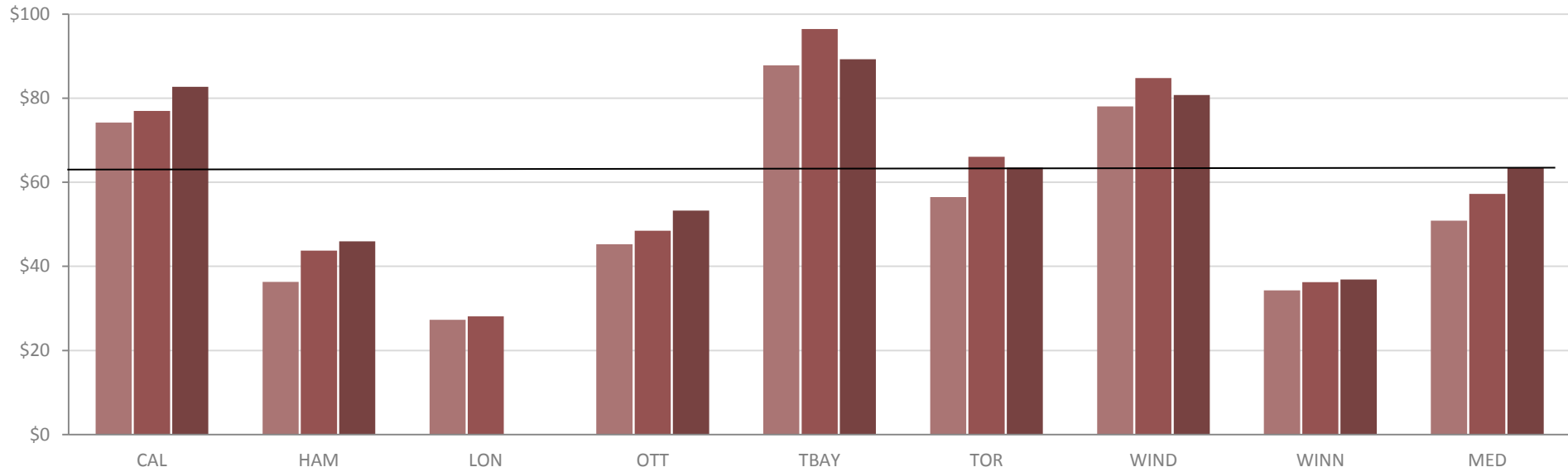
Fig 22.2 Hectares of Maintained and Natural Parkland in Municipality per 100,000 Population

Municipality	Maintained Parkland (PRKS205)			Natural Parkland (PRKS210)			Total Parkland (PRKS215)		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
CAL	325	319	291	368	361	366	693	680	657
HAM	271	269	268	232	230	229	504	499	497
LON	281	281	N/A	404	404	N/A	686	685	N/A
OTT	231	229	230	212	206	205	443	435	434
TBAY	278	278	256	1,602	1,602	1,478	1,880	1,880	1,733
TOR	160	158	156	135	133	131	295	292	288
WIND	251	251	260	203	203	204	454	454	464
WINN	271	267	263	151	151	150	421	418	412
MED	271	268	260	222	218	205	479	476.5	464

Source: PRKS205; PRKS210; PRKS215 (Service Level)

What is the cost to operate parks per person?

Fig 22.3 Operating Cost of Parks per Person

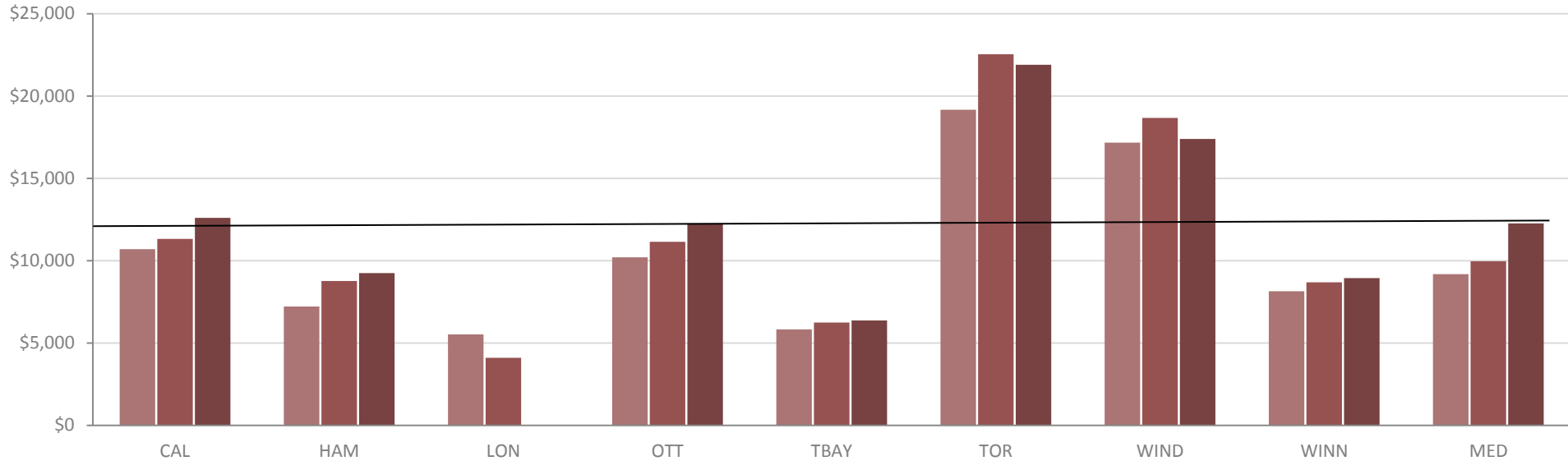


2012	\$74.21	\$36.31	\$27.31	\$45.24	\$87.80	\$56.49	\$78.02	\$34.30	\$50.87
2013	\$76.98	\$43.76	\$28.10	\$48.49	\$96.43	\$66.04	\$84.77	\$36.26	\$57.27
2014	\$82.72	\$45.93	N/A	\$53.25	\$89.24	\$63.49	\$80.72	\$36.88	\$63.49

Source: PRKS230M (Service Level)

What is the cost to operate parks per hectare?

Fig 22.4 Operating Cost per Hectare of Maintained and Natural Parkland



2012	\$10,702	\$7,211	\$5,523	\$10,209	\$5,828	\$19,166	\$17,174	\$8,144	\$9,177
2013	\$11,314	\$8,769	\$4,103	\$11,145	\$6,235	\$22,532	\$18,662	\$8,680	\$9,957
2014	\$12,594	\$9,238	N/A	\$12,258	\$6,365	\$21,897	\$17,387	\$8,947	\$12,258

Source: PRKS315 (Efficiency)

Note: It is more costly per hectare to provide maintained parkland vs. natural parkland. In addition, differences in service standards established for maintained parks and variations in level of management applied to natural areas affect the results.