



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.

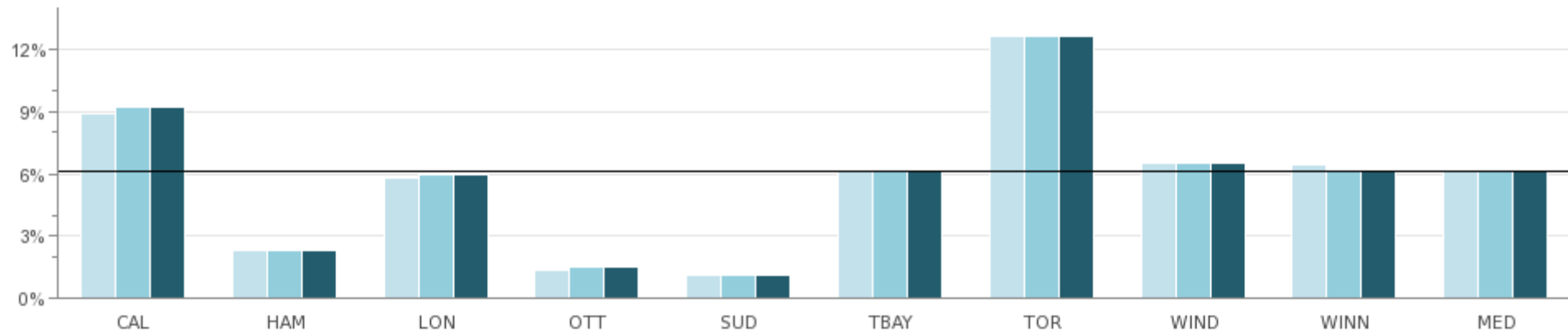
Service Standards: Differences between municipalities in the amenities available (greenhouses, washrooms, playgrounds), as well as the standards to which those parks are maintained, such as the frequency of grass cutting. There can also be differences in the costs of maintaining certain sports fields 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



2011	8.9%	2.3%	5.8%	1.3%	1.1%	6.2%	12.7%	6.5%	6.4%	6.2%
2012	9.2%	2.3%	6.0%	1.5%	1.1%	6.2%	12.7%	6.5%	6.1%	6.1%
2013	9.2%	2.3%	6.0%	1.5%	1.1%	6.2%	12.7%	6.5%	6.1%	6.1%

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.

Comment: All land in Calgary is designated for development or future development.

How much parkland is available per 100,000 population?

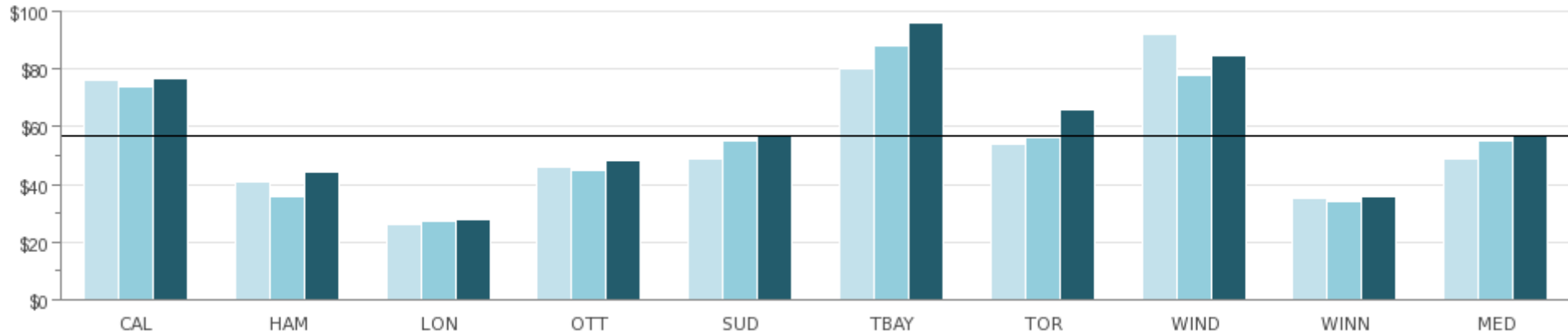
22.2 Hectares of Natural and Maintained Parkland in Municipality per 100,000 Population

Municipality	Natural Parkland (PRKS205)			Maintained Parkland (PRKS210)			Total Parkland (PRKS215)		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
CAL	334	325	319	360	368	361	693	693	680
HAM	322	312	308	167	173	172	489	485	479
LON	275	281	281	396	404	404	671	686	685
OTT	238	231	229	153	212	206	391	443	435
SUD	859	854	854	1562	1547	1547	2421	2400	2401
TBAY	278	278	278	1602	1602	1602	1880	1880	1880
TOR	162	160	158	136	135	133	298	295	292
WIND	251	251	251	203	203	203	454	454	454
WINN	294	271	267	157	151	151	451	421	418
MED	278	278	278	203	212	206	489	485	479

Source: PRKS205, PRKS210, AND PRKS215 (Service Level)

What is the cost to operate the parks system per person?

Fig 22.3 Operating Cost of Parks per Person



2011	\$76	\$41	\$26	\$46	\$49	\$80	\$54	\$92	\$35	\$49
2012	\$74	\$36	\$27	\$45	\$55	\$88	\$56	\$78	\$34	\$55
2013	\$77	\$44	\$28	\$48	\$57	\$96	\$66	\$85	\$36	\$57

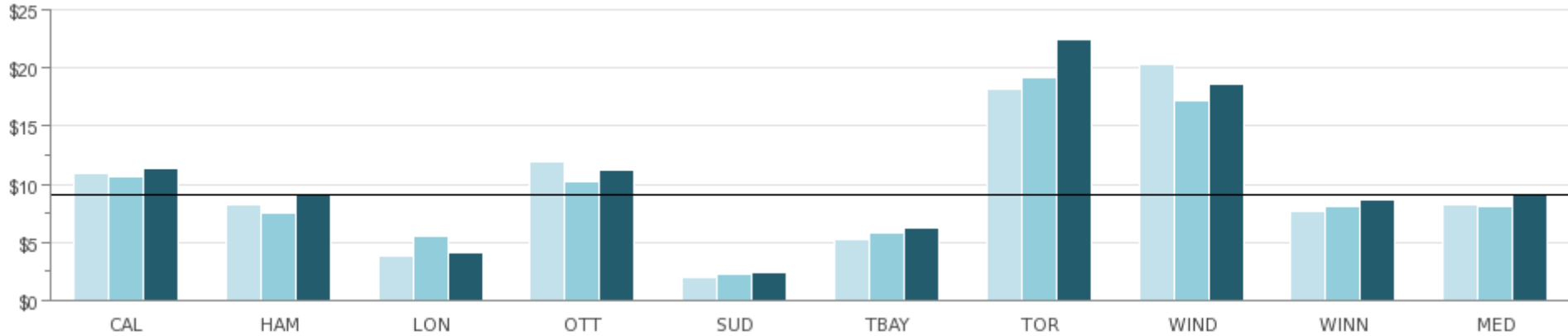
Source: PRKS230M (Service Level)

Comment: City of Windsor's costs are impacted by organizational changes resulting in increased transitional costs in the Parks area.

How much does it cost to operate parks per hectare?

Fig 22.4 Operating Cost per Hectare - Maintained and Natural Parkland

(In Thousands)



2011	\$10,938	\$8,275	\$3,844	\$11,861	\$2,014	\$5,213	\$18,257	\$20,308	\$7,665	\$8,275
2012	\$10,702	\$7,486	\$5,523	\$10,209	\$2,286	\$5,828	\$19,166	\$17,174	\$8,144	\$8,144
2013	\$11,314	\$9,131	\$4,103	\$11,145	\$2,357	\$6,235	\$22,532	\$18,662	\$8,680	\$9,131

Source: PRKS315 (Efficiency)

Note: The cost per hectare is reflective of the proportion of maintained parkland vs. natural parkland; and maintained parkland is more costly maintain. In addition, differences in service standards established for maintained parks and variations in level of management applied to natural areas affects the results.

Comment: City of Windsor's costs are impacted by organizational changes resulting in increased transitional costs in the Parks area.

