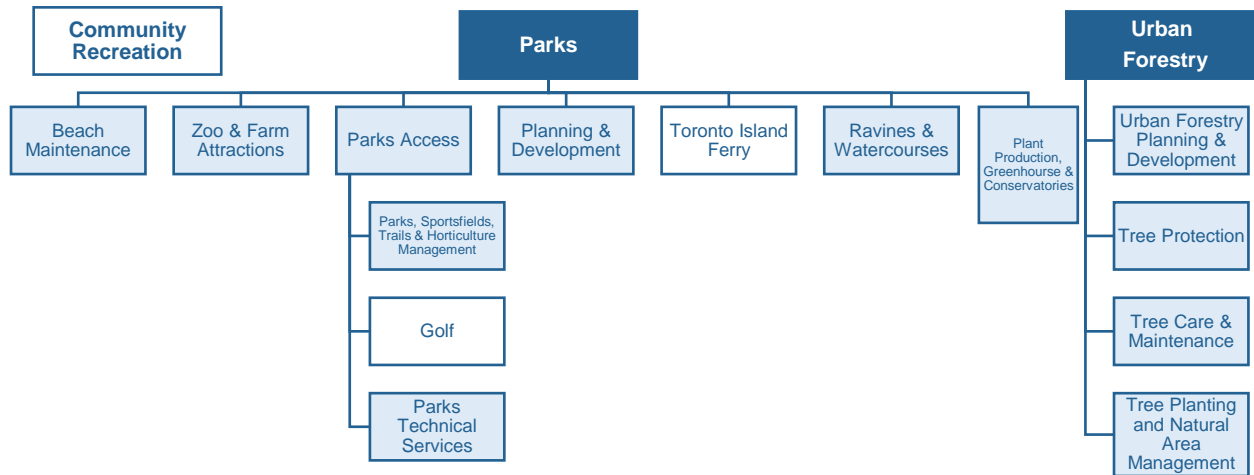


PARKS SERVICES

PROGRAM MAP

Parks, Forestry & Recreation



Shaded boxes reflect the activities covered in this report

Parks Services include the provision of parkland for residents and visitors of all ages to enjoy nature and open green space. Ravines, naturalized areas, watercourses and woodlots are maintained and managed by the Parks and Urban Forestry branches of the Parks, Forestry & Recreation Division. There are parkettes, as well as neighbourhood, regional and destination parks that attract visitors from across the Greater Toronto Area. Many parks include amenities such as benches, drinking fountains, grassy areas, flower and shrub beds, trails and pathways and trees for the passive enjoyment of everyone. Other features can include greenhouses, conservatories, formal gardens, allotment gardens, animal displays and butterfly habitats.

Active pursuits including baseball, cricket, football, soccer, jogging and walking are available in many of the larger parks. Outdoor swimming and skating are provided in every district of the City. There are many resident demands for permits for sport fields, diamonds, stadiums, and parkland for organized play, special events for community celebrations and wedding photographs. Waste reduction and diversion, waterfront development, restoration and naturalization of parkland are examples of initiatives that factor into the costs of providing parks services in Toronto. Toronto provides a wide range of park maintenance activities, which reflect the diverse character of its Parks Services. These activities include the upkeep and care of grasses, athletic fields, pathways, park washrooms, playgrounds, and sports courts – on a year-round basis.

For the purposes of this section, the costs of golf courses, ski hills, marinas and the provision and maintenance of street trees (trees on the road allowance) are not included in order to be more comparable with results from other municipalities, as it is acknowledged that the MBNC municipalities (including Toronto) provide their own unique mix of Parks activities and services as well as various different levels of priority and maintenance.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Question	Indicator/Measure	Internal Comparison of Toronto's 2016 vs. 2015 Results	External Comparison to Other Municipalities (MBNC) By Quartile for 2016	Chart & Page Ref.
Service Level Indicators				
How much total parkland of all types did Toronto have?	Hectares of all (Maintained and Natural) Parkland per 100,000 Population – (Service Level)	Stable Total amount of all parkland was steady in 2016	4 Lowest rate of hectares of all parkland in relation to population compared to others <small>(urban form leads to result)</small>	23.1 23.2 pg. 5/6
How much maintained parkland did Toronto have?	Hectares of Maintained Parkland in Municipality per 100,000 Population – (Service Level)	Stable Total amount of maintained parkland was constant in 2016	4 Lowest rate of hectares of maintained parkland in relation to population, compared to others <small>(urban form leads to result)</small>	23.1 23.2 pg. 5/6
How much natural parkland did Toronto have?	Hectares of Natural Parkland in Municipality per 100,000 Population – (Service Level)	Stable Amount of natural parkland was constant in 2016	4 Lowest rate of hectares of natural parkland in relation to population, compared to others <small>(urban form leads to result)</small>	23.1 23.2 pg. 5/6
What was the length of Toronto's recreational trail system?	Km of Maintained Recreational Trails per 1,000 Persons – (Service Level)	Stable Amount of maintained trails was steady in 2016 (no graph)	4 Lowest rate of kilometres of trails in relation to population compared to others <small>(urban form leads to result)</small>	23.4 pg. 8
Community Impact Measures				
What proportion of the municipality's area was maintained parkland?	Maintained Parkland in Municipality as a Percentage of Total Area of Municipality – (Community Impact)	Stable Maintained parkland as proportion of city area was consistent in 2016 (no graph)	1 Higher percentage of maintained parkland (in relation to area) compared to others	23.3 pg. 7

Compared to 2015, Toronto's 2016 operating cost per hectare and the total cost (which includes amortization) increased by 2.8% and operating cost remained relatively stable with an increase of 1.7%. These increased can be attributed to operating budget pressures resulting from opening new parks, salary and benefit increases and inflationary pressures.

23.8 – HOW DOES TORONTO'S PARKLAND OPERATING COSTS COMPARE TO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES?

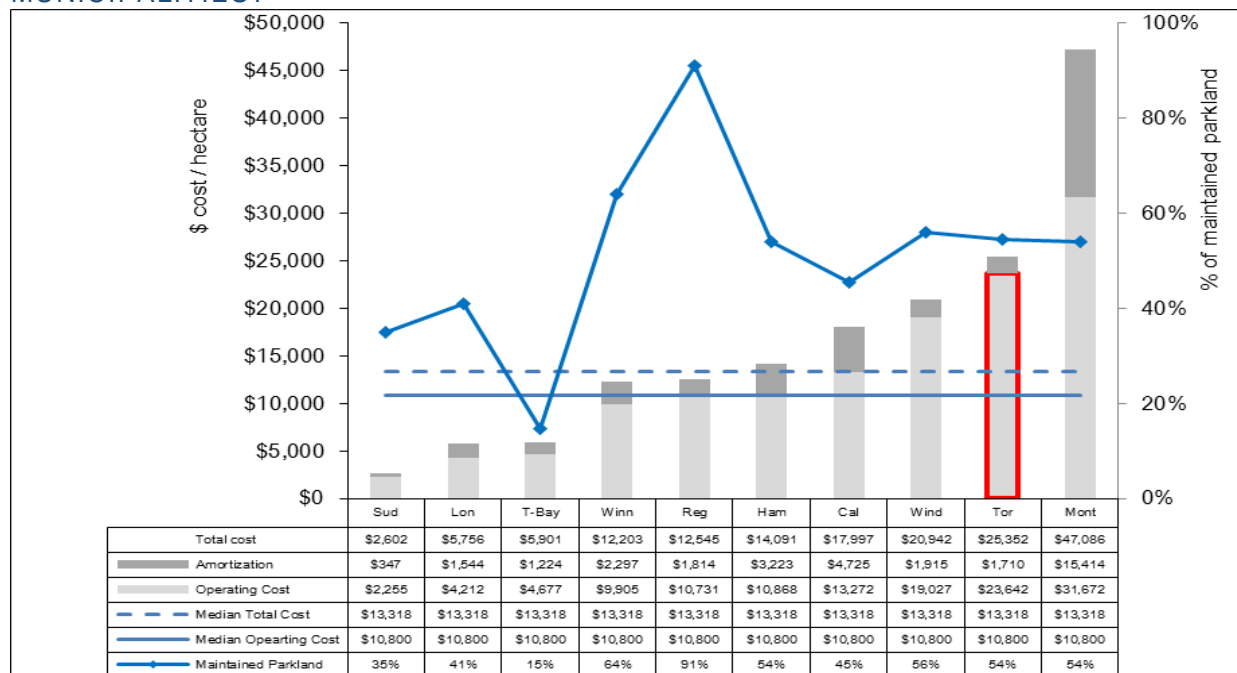


Chart 23.8 (MBNC 2016) Cost per Hectare of Parkland and % of All Parks that are maintained

Chart 23.8 compares Toronto's 2016 result to other municipalities for the cost per hectare of operating or servicing all parkland (both maintained and natural areas), which are shown as bars relative to the left axis.

The proportion of maintained parkland is a significant factor in these results and has been plotted as a line graph on Chart 23.8 relative to the right axis. Maintained parkland is more costly to take care of than forests and other natural parkland due to the higher standards for turf maintenance and the maintenance requirements for varying ranges of amenities such as greenhouses, washroom structures, playgrounds, sports fields, and splash pads. Toronto's sports fields are also permitted at lower user fee rates than other municipalities. Toronto ranks ninth of ten municipalities (fourth quartile) in terms of both the lowest operating and total cost per hectare.

Toronto has many small parks spread over a large geographic area. The City's high population density creates pressure for more frequent park maintenance and rehabilitation and Toronto's special destination features and tourism create additional costs not borne by other MBNC cities. Toronto's traffic congestion makes access to parks for maintenance more expensive.

2016 ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2017 PLANNED INITIATIVES

The following achievements / initiatives have improved or will help to further enhance the effectiveness of Toronto's Parks Services:

2016 Initiatives Completed/Achievements

Parks

- Invested in new and existing parks to encourage social gatherings, improved maintenance on all Premier and Class A sports fields to provide better service for high level competition, and increased accessibility in parks
- Transported highest number of passengers to Toronto Island to date.
- Opened new parks, increased accessibility in multiple parks through new projects and amenity upgrades and invested in parks by constructing new social gathering spaces in park and continued improving the maintenance on all Premier and Class A sports fields through enhanced turf management practices
- Implemented modernization initiatives such as a parks inspection tool, park and amenity maps.

2017 Initiatives Planned

The 2017 Operating Budget will enable the Program to:

- Deliver instructional and drop-in recreation programs for all ages that teach a new skill or improve the competency level in a variety of activities including swimming, skating, summer and holiday camps, fitness, sports and arts.
- Provide self-directed recreational opportunities through permits for recreational facilities such as ice rinks, facilities, parks and sports fields to individuals and community groups.
- Provide clean, safe and well-maintained green space, park amenities and beaches including the management of natural areas through restoration and preservation activities.
- Operate two animal attractions.
- Provide transportation services to the Toronto Island Park through Ferry Operations.
- Enhance the urban forest asset through investment in new trees, protection and maintenance of the existing asset, and planning for the future.
- Participate in the development of key policies to guide parks and recreation system enhancement, including the TOcore study with City Planning, Parkland Strategy, and Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.
- Modernize and transform business processes by leveraging technology solutions including the replacement of the Recreation Registration and Permitting system, a new work order management system and an effective on-line self-serve channel for customers.

Factors Influencing the Results of Municipalities

The results of each municipality can be influenced to varying degrees by factors such as:

- Service delivery: differences in service standards established by municipal councils (e.g., types of amenities maintained, frequency of grass cutting).
- Geographic location: varying topography affects the mix of natural and maintained hectares of parkland in each municipality as well as the number of parks and size of an average park.
- Environmental factors: soil composition, weather patterns, etc.
- Population density: higher densities may mean more intense usage and require different types of maintenance strategies (e.g., irrigation, artificial turf, sport field and pathway lighting). More intense use of natural parkland can also necessitate more maintenance.
- Changing demographics and community use: increased demand for large social gatherings and various other sports.
- Amount of parkland / trails in municipalities- there is limited availability of land in municipalities with a predominantly urban form, it may be more difficult to establish new parks in developed areas and acquire new parkland than it is in municipalities with greater rural areas.