

OURS-WINNIPEG Presentation to City of Winnipeg EPC

May 13, 2021

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**OURS-Winnipeg (Outdoor Urban
Recreational Spaces – Winnipeg) is a city-
wide, community-based, green space
advocate with a focus on urban green
spaces, river and nature corridors and the
urban forest.**

**Parks, green spaces and natural areas are
essential to making Winnipeg an attractive
place to live, work and visit. With good
planning and care they will be there for
generations to come.**

Sustainable cities prioritize environmental conservation; and invest in protecting, restoring, and maintaining green spaces, urban forestry, and local ecosystems.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration launches on World Environment Day
(June 5,2021)

This UN Call to Action has the purpose of recognizing the need to massively accelerate global restoration of degraded ecosystems, to fight the climate heating crisis, enhance food security, provide clean water and protect biodiversity on the planet.”

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration states:

“Green spaces need to be placed at the heart of urban planning. “

“Civic groups and municipal authorities can clean up waterways, plant trees and create urban woodland and other wildlife habitat in parks, schools and other public spaces. Permeable sidewalks and urban wetlands can protect against flooding and pollution. Contaminated industrial areas can be rehabilitated.”

Urban Restoration

Urban areas can have a profound effect on human health.

When urban areas are well-managed, they can improve air quality, reduce the UHI (urban heat island) effect, protect us from hazardous materials and conditions, house a surprising amount of biodiversity, and provide ample recreational activities.

“To restore urban ecosystems requires proactive urban planners that are willing to work with both citizens and policymakers to green up cities and reduce their environmental impact.”

WINNIPEG LAGS BEHIND OTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CITIES IN GREEN SPACE

Winnipeg has 6% of total urban area as parkland compared to the 9% average for other major Canadian cities , according to data from Park People City Parks Report 2020.

Winnipeg ranks 18 out of 26 for the % of total City Land Area that is Park

Winnipeg ranks 20 out of 27 for amount of natural area within its parks

REF: PARK PEOPLE CITY PARKS REPORT 2020

10 largest cities in Canada

MASTER PLAN for GREEN SPACES and URBAN Population data from Park People City Parks Report 2020 ¹

Rank	City	Population
1	* **Toronto Master Plan for Greenspace	2,956,024
2	* **Montreal Master Plan for Parks and Urban Forest	1,704,694
3	* **Calgary Master Plan for Green Space	1,267,344
4	**Ottawa Master Plan for Greenspace	1,001,077
5	* **Edmonton Master Plan for Greenspace Multiple Plans	972,223
6	**Mississauga Master Plan for Greenspace	777,200
7	Winnipeg	753,700
8	* **Vancouver Master Plan for Greenspace https://sustain.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2020-54_Biodiversity%20Audit%20of%20Vancouver%20Park_Oyun_khishig.pdf	646,700
9	*Hamilton	579,000
10	*Surrey Multiple Plans	578,236

*Biodiversity Plan

** Master Plan for Greenspace

(City of Vancouver referenced / NOT Greater Vancouver Area)

Toronto/Montreal/Calgary/Ottawa/Edmonton/Vancouver all have a Master Plan for Green Space. 7 out of 10 largest Canadian cities have Biodiversity Strategies

¹ Park People City Parks Report 2020 Data <https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/cities>

PRIORITY REQUESTS

RE: “OUR WINNIPEG 2045” and “COMPLETE COMMUNITIES”

1. Remove all development options large and small from Major Open Space (parks, golf lands, nature areas)

Retain: “serve a *public function* and provide an aesthetic, recreational and /or ecological significance to the city as a whole”, “prioritize preservation and protection”.

2. Add “A Master Plan for Green Space in Winnipeg to be drafted and enacted within two years of approval of these planning documents. Green Space includes urban forests, major open spaces, grasslands, recreational spaces, golf lands, wetlands, urban waterways, ecologically sensitive lands, parks and open spaces, natural areas, and wildlife corridors.”

Master Plan for Green Space

Unlike many other major Canadian cities, the City of Winnipeg does not have a Master Plan for Green Space. Such plans lay out a vision for green spaces with rules to

protect green space, constraints to govern their development, and ongoing requirements for additional green spaces as the city grows.

The purpose of a Master Plan for Green Space is to articulate a vision and plan for all the green spaces and major open spaces in Winnipeg. A Master Plan will hold accountable those in power to their responsibility for putting in place requirements to protect and create green spaces that will benefit future generations and NOT to deal with green space issues on an ad hoc basis.

3. Add “A Biodiversity Plan for Winnipeg to be drafted and enacted within two years of approval of these planning documents.”

A Biodiversity Plan is a program that addresses threatened species and habitats and is designed to protect and restore biological systems.

4. Add “A Green Corridor Plan for Winnipeg to be drafted and enacted within two years of approval of these planning documents.”

They are vital ecological conduits. Green corridors in cities are linear natural infrastructure, such as rivers, creeks, trees and plants that link up other green and open spaces to form a green urban network.

5. Add: “Prohibit development in Major Open Space areas”.

For greater clarity, wording in Major Open Spaces will be revised to prohibit development on Major Open Spaces by using the word “Prohibit” as is used in Employment Lands that deters residential development.

6. Add: “Update the Development Agreement Parameters to reflect innovation in development practices as they pertain to parks, such as watershed management, ecologically significant natural lands, and active and passive parks spaces” to Development Agreement Parameters / Complete Communities 2.0 p. 32 – as in 2011 Complete Communities.

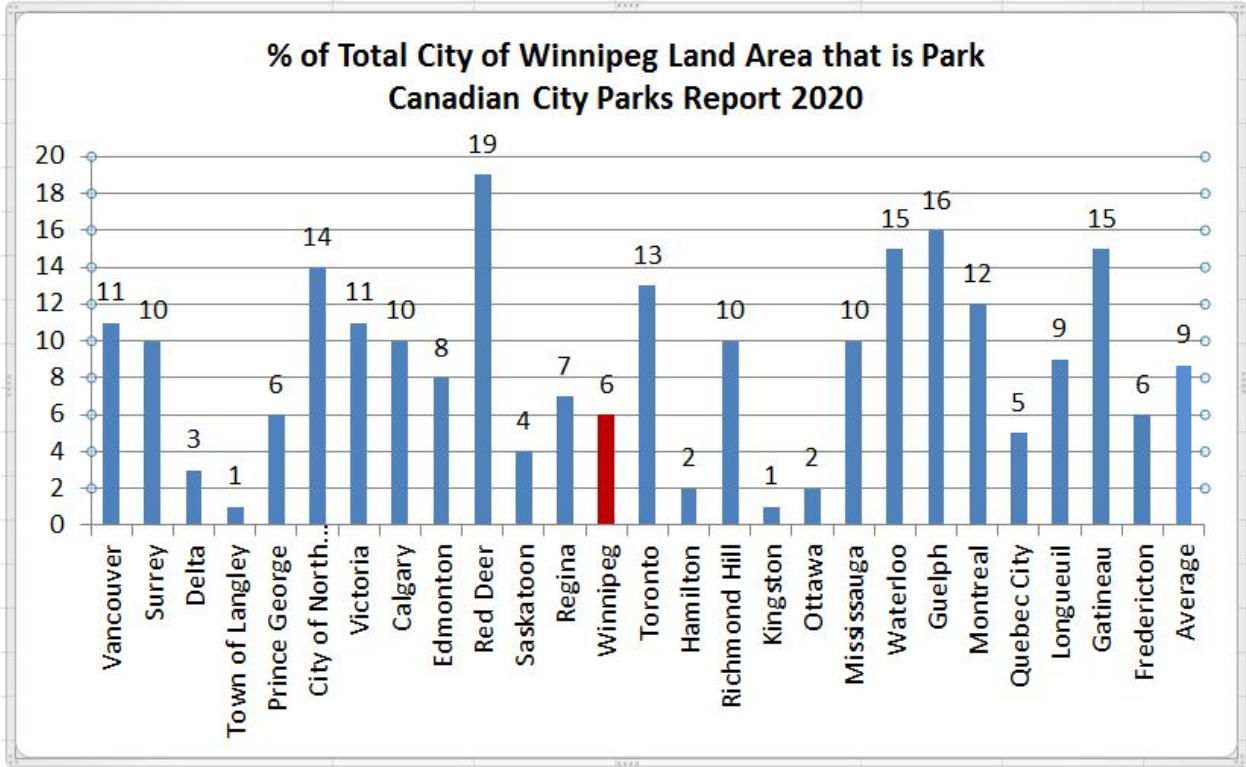
7. Return golf course lands to Parks and Recreation By-law as protected land and amend the Repurposing Study of Golf Land to exclude sale or lease of golf land for housing or commercial development .

8. Add: “A measurable and targeted plan to be drafted and enacted to address the objectives and targets of “UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2031) which aim to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems...”

“It can help end poverty and combat climate change. Green spaces need to be placed at the heart of urban planning. Civic groups and municipal authorities can clean up waterways, plant trees and create urban woodland and other wildlife habitat in parks, schools and other public spaces.”

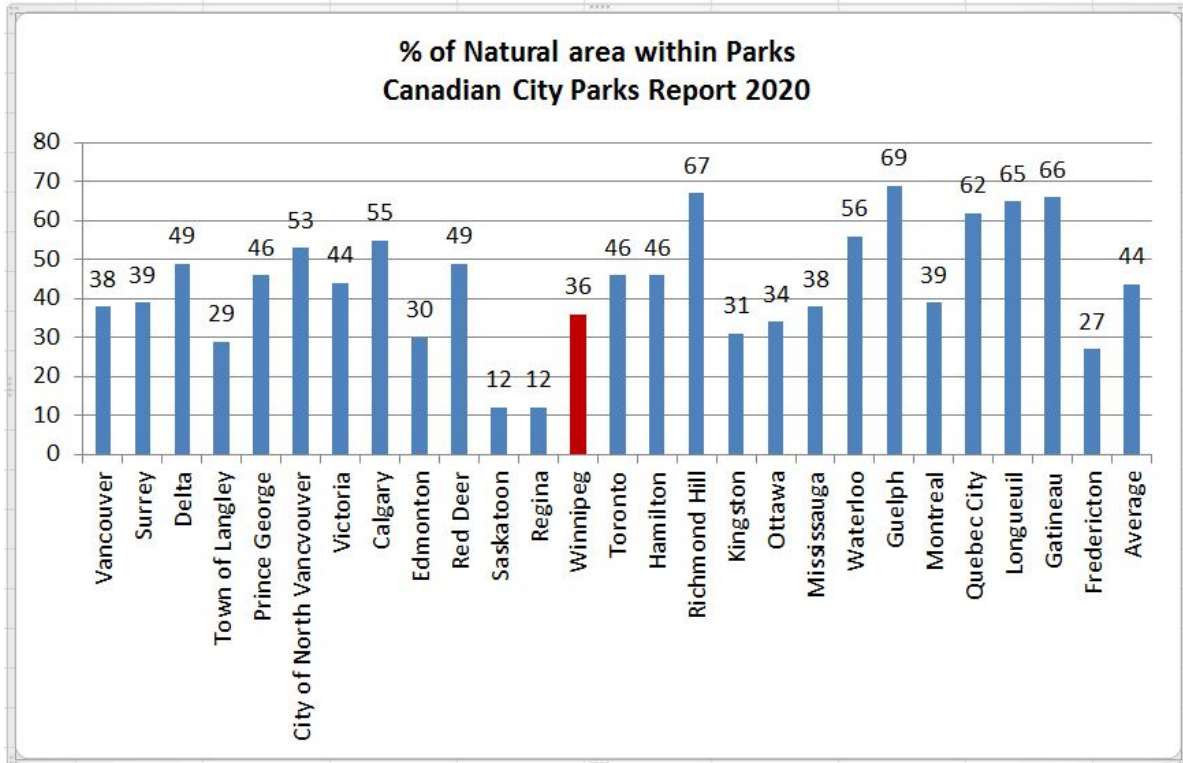
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Comparatives - Winnipeg to other Canadian cities April 2021

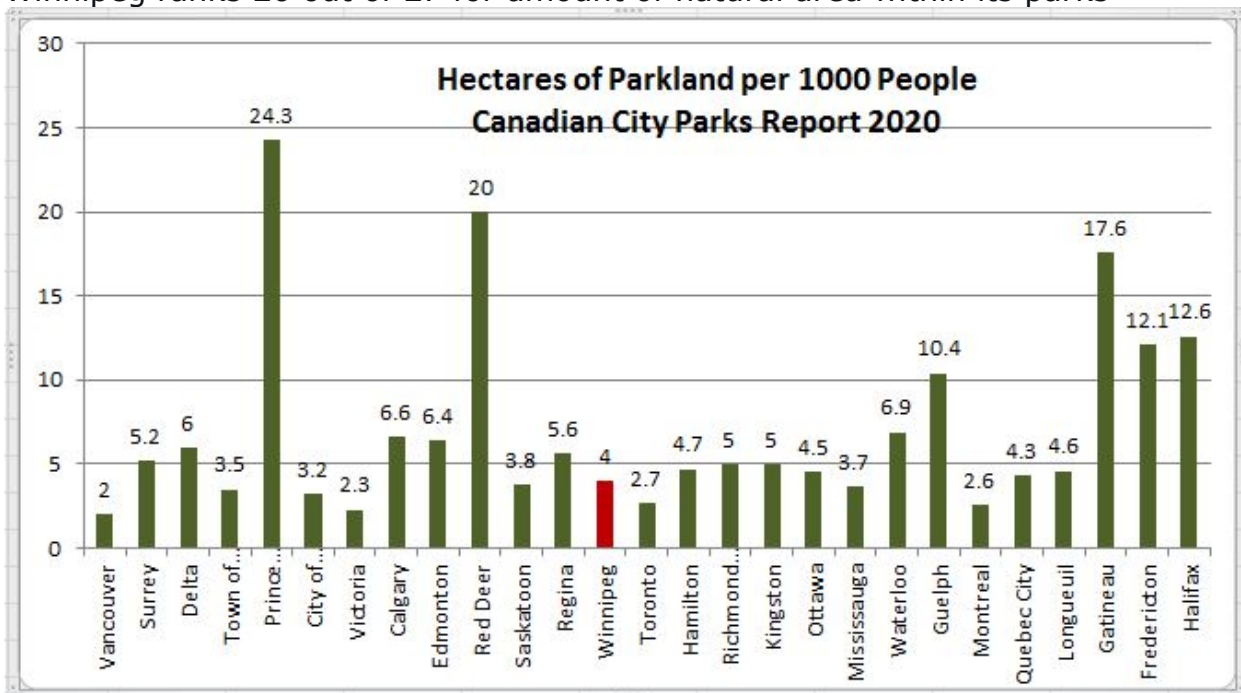


Park People City Parks Report 2020 ²
 Winnipeg ranks 18 out of 26 for the % of total City Land Area that is Park
 (Halifax not in this one)

² Park People City Parks Report 2020 <https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/cities>



Winnipeg ranks 20 out of 27 for amount of natural area within its parks



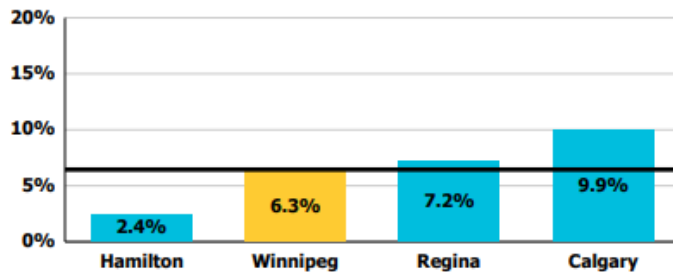
Winnipeg, the 7th largest city in Canada ranks 19 out of 27 for amount of parkland per 1000 people

City of Winnipeg Community Trends and Performance Report 2021³

2018 MBN Canada Performance Measurement Report

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All Parkland in Municipality (Maintained and Natural) as a Percent of Total Area of Municipality (2018)

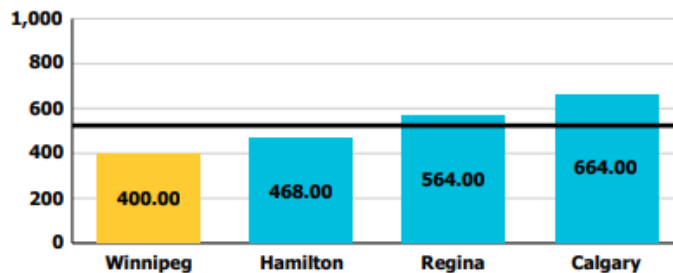


Winnipeg is just slightly below the 2018 average of 6.6%. The 6.6 % average is calculated from values reported by 11 major cities across Canada in the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wpg. Trend	6.1%	6.2%	6.2%	6.4%	6.3%

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (PRKS125)

Hectares of Maintained and Natural Parkland per 100,000 Population (2018)



Winnipeg is below the 2018 average of 564 hectares per 100,000 population. The population of Winnipeg continues to increase, which has resulted in a downward trend.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wpg. Trend	412.00	410.00	399.00	403.00	400.00

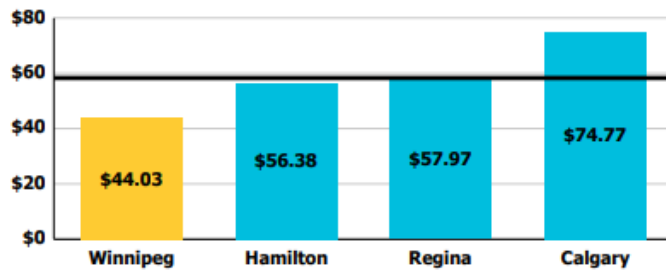
Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (PRKS205; PRKS210; PRKS215)

³ Winnipeg Community Trends and Performance Report 2021 https://www.winnipeg.ca/cao/pdfs/CommunityTrendsandPerformanceReportVolume1_2021.pdf

⁴ 2018 MBN Canada Performance Measurement Report <https://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/2018%20MBNCanada%20Performance%20Measurement%20Report.pdf>

Efficiency Measurements

Operating Cost of Parks (Maintained and Natural) per Capita (2018)

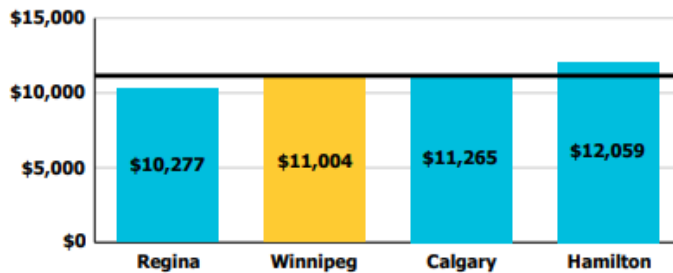


Winnipeg is below the 2018 average operating cost of \$64.38 per person when compared alongside other major Canadian cities.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wpg. Trend	\$36.88	\$40.72	\$39.51	\$40.94	\$44.03

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (PRKS230)

Operating Cost per Hectare of Maintained and Natural Parkland (2018)



Winnipeg's calculated value is exactly equal to the 2018 average operating cost of \$11,004 per hectare when compared alongside other major Canadian cities.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Wpg. Trend	\$8,947	\$9,934	\$9,905	\$10,148	\$11,004

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (PRKS315)

10 largest cities in Canada

Population data from Park People City Parks Report 2020 ⁵

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Quotes

1. Toronto Winter Parks Strategy The Welcome T.O. Winter plan provides safe ways for people to get outside in Toronto's parks, including at our 54 artificial ice rinks and five golf courses.

Toronto Biodiversity Strategy p.6 Despite recent progress, urban growth continues to put pressure on local biodiversity. The strategy aims to promote a livable city that supports biodiversity through the articulation of a vision, ten principles and 23 actions under the themes of protect, restore, design and engage. The Strategy's actions are complementary to provincial and national initiatives that contribute to global biodiversity recovery.

Toronto Ravine Strategy p. Ravines are fundamentally natural spaces. Ecological function and resilience is the foundation for long-term sustainability of the ravines and watersheds. We are all guardians of these spaces and must treat them with care and respect. All actions related to ravines should be guided by the overarching goal of protecting these spaces by maintaining and improving their ecological health.

2. Six concrete actions in favour of biodiversity in Montréal Montréal is a leader when it comes to sustainable urban development in North America. In the knowledge that nature offers a host of benefits to our communities, the municipal administration has stepped up its efforts to protect the environment in the past several years.

4. Ottawa Wild life Strategy p. integrated and comprehensive Wildlife Strategy centred on "wildlife-sensitive planning, with a focus on public education and awareness programs" and including "protocols to be required in conditions of plans of subdivision and site plans." Council emphasized that the Wildlife Strategy should reflect an "ecosystem perspective" through policies and actions that would facilitate and foster a more harmonious relationship with all wildlife. Council's direction reflected not only general concerns for biodiversity and harmony with nature, but also specific issues and complaints arising from the City's current policies and procedures for responding to individual animals or populations of animals. Ottawa's Wildlife Strategy, therefore, strives to reflect the full complexity of human relations with wild animals, from the impacts of urban expansion on the integrity and connectivity of wildlife habitat, to the welfare of individual animals in conflict with human needs.

8. City of Vancouver Plans

p.6 Golf Strategy The generalized results of those studies determined that since golf courses are considered as green spaces in urban areas, they have potentially positive effects on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service provision (i.e., pest regulation, pollination, and seed dispersal) by providing the functional connectivity or bridge between different green spaces and wildlife refuge (Saarikivi et al., 2015; Ortuno et al., 2016; Petrosillo, 2019). Harmony with nature is an essential part of golf's heritage and, with proper management; golf courses can minimize impacts and even make positive contributions to ecology and biodiversity (John & Cheryll, 2004).

p.7 The results will contribute to the Golf Strategy to be initiated in 2020 and improve understanding of how these spaces contribute to biodiversity, climate change mitigation and access to nature for a growing population.

Vancouver 10 goals to shape Parks and Recreation p.11 Goal 2 Protect existing parks and recreation spaces from Loss, Encroachment & Densification

9. Hamilton Parks and Open Space Development Guide p.7 Guide to be used by the development community, consultants, and City of Hamilton staff as a resource tool in defining the process of creating Hamilton's parks and open spaces, either by the development community or by the City of Hamilton itself. It is also the intention of this Guide to identify the design standards for the design and construction of park and open space lands

10. City of Surrey Plans

City of Surrey Ecosystem Management Study 2011

"The concept of integrating green networks in planning is not new, but it is an approach that has not been used for environmental planning in urban areas of the lower Fraser Valley. The term "green infrastructure" was coined as a strategic move by leading practitioners to reposition green features and functions as community necessities, not community amenities (Wilkie and Ascroft, 2009). Green infrastructure also differs from conventional approaches to land use planning because it looks at conservation values and actions in concert with land development, growth management, and built infrastructure planning (Benedict and McMahon, 2002).

Surrey Shade Tree Management Plan 2016 (Public property shade tree management, Natural Areas Management Plan coir other trees)

"A recent analysis demonstrates that for every \$1.00 spent on the costs of planting, maintaining, and managing shade trees in Surrey, \$3.18 in benefits is realized in the form of energy savings, carbon sequestration, air quality improvements, storm water retention, property value increases, and other benefits. As the City's street and park shade tree inventory expands and matures, this benefit to cost ratio is expected to increase."

Surrey Parks and Recreation and Culture

p. 36 "Surrey's parks are foundational to the realization of our City's vision; to become a thriving, green, inclusive City. They are the places where we socialize, play and relax daily. These places are also set aside for the conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of the natural environment."

Surrey's 10-year parks and recreation plan proposes 29 new parks to accommodate growth, changing populations, and preservation of natural lands.