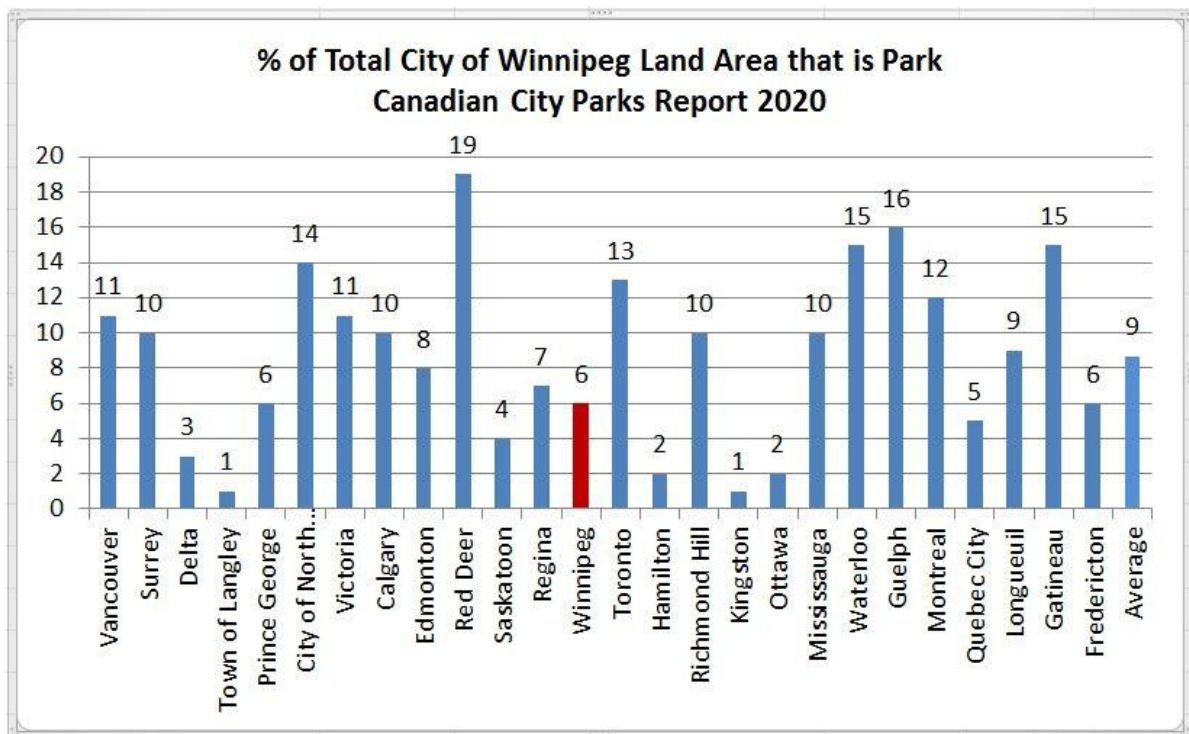


Winnipeg Parkland Stats Compared to Other Major Canadian Cities

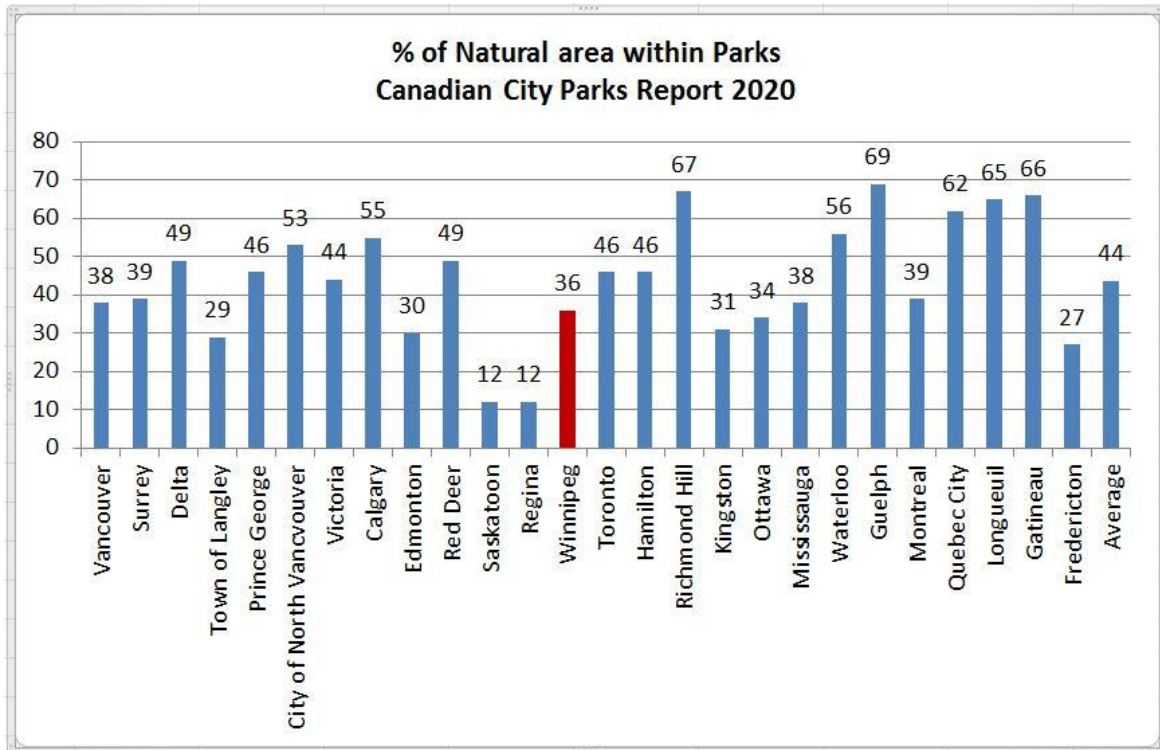
OURS-Winnipeg utilized City of Winnipeg data and national urban data from the Canadian City Parks Report 2020ⁱ to provide a data comparative of urban public park land.

- 6% of Winnipeg's total city area is public park land, compared to the average of Canadian cities at 9%. (Winnipeg - 6%, Vancouver – 11%, Toronto - 13%, Montreal 12%, Calgary - 10%) (chart below).



- Golf course lands make up 1% of total city area and adding them to parkland could increase total Winnipeg park area to 7% which still leaves Winnipeg's amount of parkland below average compared to other major Canadian cities
- Public Major Open Space makes up 3% of city's public park land. (Parks and Open Space data)

- Winnipeg has 36% natural area within its parks - below average compared to the average for other Canadian cities at 44% (Winnipeg - 36%, Toronto - 46%, Montreal - 39%, Calgary - 55%, Vancouver - 38%, Quebec City - 62%)



- The 25-year vision for the Draft planning documentsⁱⁱ to be finalized this fall enables development on Major Open Space (large parks) and if accepted will result in a reduction of Winnipeg's below average amount of parkland

Canadian cities are leading and Winnipeg must catch up

- Calgary joined Local Action for Biodiversity in 2016, an international program to improve biodiversity planning and management along with Montreal and Edmonton.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Edmonton's river valley comprises over 20 major parks and attractions and forms the largest expanse of urban parkland in Canada.^{iv} Golf courses and the park system are part of a winter recreation area during that season.
- Halifax has a Green Network Plan and is currently partnering with Nature Conservancy to purchase 380 acres of land for an urban wilderness park.^v The

Halifax Green Network Plan (HGPN) defines an interconnected open space system for the municipality, highlights ecosystem functions and benefits, and outlines strategies to manage open space.

- Toronto identifies itself as a “City within a Park”. A Vision for Toronto’s Parks System - “Parks are essential elements for a good quality of life by supporting personal well-being, social connection, healthy living and ecological sustainability. Toronto’s park system will expand and improve as the city grows to ensure that parkland is accessible, functional, connected, and resilient.”^{vi} Toronto has a Biodiversity Strategy called Wild, Connected and Diverse.^{vii}
- The Victoria Capitol Region District has embraced the philosophy that Nature Needs Half^{viii} in planning an interconnected regional parks system. It has spent \$48 million to protect 11,082 acres.
- Montreal plans to create the largest urban park in the country. The proposed 3,000-hectare "Great West Park" will be eight times the size of New York City's Central Park and 15 times the size of Mt. Royal.^{ix}
- Vancouver envisions itself as the Greenest City with its Greenest City Action Plan.^x
- The City of Selkirk won a 2019 national award for its capital asset plan that includes a Climate Change Adaption Strategy.^{xi} *“Be it the city’s heating and cooling budget, urban tree conservation or purchasing new vehicles, the default setting for day-to-day municipal business has to be adaptive from now on”.*^{xii}

“One of the initial pledges made by the Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg 60 years ago was to add 1,000 acres of parkland by acquiring land in and around urban areas and that goal was exceeded.” Parks to emerge from this period include La Barriere, Little Mountain, John Blumberg and its golf course, Maple Grove, Bonnycastle, and King’s Park. Metro Winnipeg had a vision for green space and parks 60 years ago and fulfilled that vision. Surely we can do as much today if Winnipeg embraces a vision of adding green space and parkland!

OURS-Winnipeg suggests that Winnipeg can and must do more to close the park land / green space gap that has Winnipeg falling behind other cities as an attractive location for business and families.

We invite further discussion regarding a vision for Winnipeg that includes a plan for more green space and parkland.

ⁱ The Canadian City Parks Report 2020 <https://cityparksreport.parkpeople.ca/>

ⁱⁱ Planning for our shared future: OurWinnipeg & Complete Communities

<https://engage.winnipeg.ca/planning-for-our-shared-future>

ⁱⁱⁱ Calgary's Biodiversity, "Our BiodiverCity"

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/Parks/Pages/Planning-and-Operations/Biodiversity.aspx>

^{iv} North Saskatchewan River Valley Parks System

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Saskatchewan_River_valley_parks_system

^v Halifax's own urban wilderness park, Under the deal, Halifax Regional Municipality will own and manage the park

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/local/fundraising-goal-reached-for-halifax-wilderness-park-400718/>

^{vi} Parkland Strategy, Growing Toronto's Parkland <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/97fb-parkland-strategy-full-report-final.pdf>

^{vii} Wild, Connected and Diverse, Toronto's Biodiversity Strategy

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-136906.pdf>

^{viii} Nature Needs Half <https://natureneedshalf.org/>

^{ix} Montreal plans to create the biggest urban park in the country

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/montreal-plans-to-create-the-biggest-urban-park-in-the-country-1.4541616>

^x City of Vancouver Greenest City 2020 Action Plan

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Greenest-city-action-plan.pdf>

^{xi} City of Selkirk, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

<https://www.myselkirk.ca/climatechangeadaptation/>

^{xii} Selkirk, Manitoba Climate Adaption Strategy May 2019

https://www.myselkirk.ca/blog/2019/05/27/selkirk-named-cnam-tereo-asset-management-award-winner-for-2019/?fbclid=IwAR2AfoktRrgaDeNDV13Ru1hk8NXBPwNOIR61Fe3BUDJ_wJG_Ihf7Nyo3mG4