

2016 FACT SHEET

PARKS AND RECREATION PARKS DIVISION



WHAT IS PARKS?

The Parks Division works in partnership with the community to create a quality of life that supports healthy lifestyles and preserves and protects the natural environment. This is achieved through the provision of parks that meet a variety of community needs. The Division is responsible for the planning, design, development and operation of 170 parks covering over 820 hectares of parkland.

The Parks
Division
net 2016 budget
is \$6,592,300

DID YOU KNOW WE PROVIDE?

Parks Administration:

This includes overall management and administrative support for all sections including clerical support, public engagement, communications and marketing. Nearly 3000 calls for service per year are received ranging from tree concerns to park or playground maintenance and trail inquiries. Annually, nearly 400 rental permits for 6000 specific uses or events are managed and the administration of all park use permits including home field user agreements, sport field bookings, picnics, special events and weddings is also coordinated.

Net cost \$560,800

Planning & Design:

This section is responsible for parks and open space land use planning, urban design and parks and trail development. Strategic park planning advice is provided on park land acquisition, inventory, park and trail development, facility standards and service levels. Site specific management plans, site planning and detailed design are developed each year for new public parks and trails, upgrades to facilities and trails in existing parks.

Net cost \$462,400

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The section plans and implements a variety of public participation processes and hosts events to engage a wide variety of stakeholders. Staff also work with a variety of groups in assisting with community based proposals and projects. There are approximately 50 projects of varying complexity and scope on this year's work plan.

Urban Forestry:

Urban Forestry includes the management of all public trees in parks, boulevards and other public facilities as well as the administration of the Tree Preservation Bylaw. Over 2000 requests for service regarding public trees or private trees are responded to and over 1000 trees are pruned and maintained each year. Private development applications and internal capital infrastructure improvements are coordinated as they relate to public parkland, trails and tree preservation. Annually over 500 applications are reviewed.

Net cost \$1,051,200

Horticulture:

Horticulture includes the planting, pruning, mulching, integrated pest management, and weeding of over 700 horticulture displays located in boulevards, cul-de-sacs, parks, streetscapes and facilities. This includes: 475 cul-de-sac displays, 155 parks and streetscape shrub displays, 32 parks and streetscape annual displays, 7 civic facility mixed displays and 5 park major perennial displays. Horticulture also includes the maintenance of the Markham Road Nursery, the Municipal Hall, the administration of the Capital City and Agnes Community Gardens and turf maintenance at 145 park and streetscape locations.

Net cost \$1,364,600

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Natural Areas:

Net cost **\$491,800**

Natural Areas includes tree planting and the maintenance and establishment of newly planted trees, invasive species management, general restoration of parks natural areas and administration and management of the Pulling Together Volunteer Program which includes staff support in over 40 park locations, for over 450 active volunteers and the removal of over 50 tonnes of invasive species annually.

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Parks Construction:

Net cost **\$729,400**

This section focuses on installation of new park and major maintenance of existing ones. This includes buildings and structures, 99 km of trails, 44 beach accesses, 57 playgrounds, a water park and a skateboard park. Painting and graffiti cleanup (typically 2500 tags), the repair and maintenance of 434 benches, 167 picnic tables, 52 gates, 127 park identification and 47 interpretive or way finding signs, 56 stair locations and 55 bridges. Over 60 individual park capital projects are typically planned each year, totalling \$2.3 million.

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Parks Maintenance:

Net cost \$1,932,100

This section focuses on the routine maintenance of parks assets such as sports fields, washrooms, sport courts, irrigation systems, parking lots and general park areas. This includes: sports fields (19 soccer, 38 baseball, 1 football, 1 horseshoe pitch, 3 lawn bowling), 18 washrooms, 152 locations with garbage cans, 71 parking lots and roads, approximately 300 km of roadside mowing, 75 locations of rough mowing, 35 tennis courts, 2 lacrosse boxes, 21 basketball / hockey courts and a variety of irrigation systems in 55 parks and 72 boulevard locations.
