

Calgary



Residential Sports Ramps

Open Online Opinion Survey Results



Research & Engagement Overview

The City undertook a number of research and engagement activities related to residential sports ramps between August and December 2015:

- An open online survey was fielded from October 19 – December 14, 2015 using Fluid Surveys.
 - **Due to the opt-in and open method, results are qualitative in nature and cannot be said to represent views of Calgarians.**
- A statistically representative telephone survey of 504 Calgarians was fielded between November 24th and December 6th 2015.
 - This was a randomly sampled survey and results can be said to represent views of Calgarians.
 - The results of this survey will be published in a separate comprehensive report and posted on the calgary.ca/sportsramps websites.
- The Pop Up Engagement team visited Shaw Millennium Park, Chinook Park, Kelvin Grove and Eagle Ridge (CKE) and Westside Recreation Centre to engage with younger skateboarders and their parents.
- Open Houses were held in four quadrants of the City and the City Centre between November 10th and November 18th.
 - The feedback from the pop up engagement and open houses is available at calgary.ca/sportsramps.

This report contains the results from the open online opinion survey



Methodology

- The open online opinion survey link was posted on the calgary.ca/sportsramps Engage page and the project page, and was communicated by a variety of methods, including an online media buy targeting various online publications, social media, the Federation of Calgary Communities “Get Engaged” e-newsletter, The City of Calgary Planning Department’s “Dispatch” e-newsletter, two advertisements in the Calgary Herald, an email to Community Association representatives on a City of Calgary distribution list, advertisements on 107 City Digital Display Units in City-owned facilities, and through the Calgary Association of Skateboard Enthusiasts. Information was also distributed to Area Councillors.
- **Results from open surveys such as this are a collection of opinions and perceptions from interested or potentially affected citizens, and not a statistically valid random sample of all Calgarians. There is no ability to generalize the data. Results in this report should be interpreted with caution.**
- We received a total of 1931 completed responses. This exceeds the typical participation levels for an open online survey. Typically, similar open online surveys receive about 100-500 responses.
- Due to the large number of responses and the fact that sampling was not statistically valid, a random sample of 200 completed responses was selected to analyze themes in open text responses. This was done to minimize skew in the data, and to produce results faster.



Summary of Results

- Participants generally agreed that sports ramps should be allowed on residential property, with some limitations.
 - About one quarter of participants do not support sports ramps on residential properties.
 - Benefits mentioned included encouraging physical activity, giving younger users a safer place to practice, and reducing use of roads, commercial areas, and bigger skateparks.
 - Drawbacks mentioned included noise, conflicts among neighbours, and safety risks.
- Awareness of current regulations was low.
- About half of the participants thought there should be rules and standards to regulate sports ramps, while the other half thought there should not.
 - Reasons why regulations are needed included limiting the size, limiting the noise, and protecting the safety of users.
 - When asked why regulations aren't needed, there was acknowledgement that some rules are necessary but they shouldn't be overly restrictive, and comments about private property owners making their own choices, and encouraging active lifestyles.
- More than half of the participants said that a development permit should not be needed.
- Participants were generally comfortable with the proposed maximum size.
 - Among those who weren't, there was an approximate split between avid users who felt the maximum was too small in some way, and property owners who felt the maximum was too large to be acceptable.
- For most participants, the optimal placement on lots would be in the back yard, unattached to houses or garages.
- Concern about noise was mentioned by about one quarter of participants.
 - Participants expect sports ramp use to be governed by existing noise limits.
 - Key noise concerns would be level of noise, continuous nature of noise, and time of noise (specifically late at night).



Question Results

A copy of the online questionnaire follows the question results. A summary of the question results is included in the box text.

[Q9] Do you agree or disagree that sports ramps should be allowed on residential property?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Strongly agree		65.9%	1139
Somewhat agree		8.2%	141
Somewhat disagree		2.9%	50
Strongly disagree		23.1%	399
		Total Responses	1729

Participants generally agreed that sports ramps should be allowed on residential property.



[Q10] What do you think the main benefits of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?

Top 10 Themes

Encourage activity

Age appropriate for youth

Divert traffic from parks/streets/commercial areas

Build community/family

Develop skill

Safety

Do not support residential ramps

Fairness

Not enough skate parks/parks too far

Reduce crime

This question was optional. 1592 participants provided comments for this question.

A random sample of 200 responses was selected for textual analysis. The project team was able to develop 10 themes from this text field that were frequently mentioned, and these are listed in order of frequency. Multiple themes were possible from each response.

Most of the benefits mentioned were related to encouraging activity, providing age appropriate opportunities, and reducing congestion at skateparks, on roads, or at commercial areas and staying closer to home.

There were frequent mentions that some participants were not in support of ramps.



[Q11] What do you think the main drawback of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?

Top 10 Themes
Noise
Neighbour relationships
None
Safety
Poor visual appeal
Crowds/bad behaviour
Poor construction
Time of use
Property value
Damage

This question was optional. 1588 participants provided comments for this question.

A random sample of 200 responses was selected for textual analysis. The project team was able to develop 10 themes from this text field that were frequently mentioned, and these are listed in order of frequency. Multiple themes were possible from each response.

Most of the drawbacks mentioned were related to noise, neighbor conflicts, and risks to safety.

There were frequent mentions that there were no drawbacks.



[Q3] Did you know, before taking this survey that The City of Calgary has regulations for sports ramps on residential properties?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		45.7%	873
No		45.7%	873
Don't know/Not sure		8.6%	165
		Total Responses	1911

Participants were evenly divided on their awareness of regulations for sports ramps on residential properties.



[Q4] Do you think the City should have rules and standards to regulate sports ramps on residential properties?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		47.1%	900
No		47.0%	898
Don't know/Not sure		5.8%	111
		Total Responses	1909

There was no clear preference for rules and standards among participants - about half of the participants thought there should be regulations for sports ramps on residential properties, and the other half thought there shouldn't be regulations.



Why do you think the City should have standards to regulate sport ramps on residential properties?

Top 10 Themes

Size control

Noise control

Safety

Ensuring balance of citizen needs

Time of use control

Visual appeal/property value

Construction control

Do not support residential ramps

Privacy control

Set a standard

This question was optional. 914 participants provided comments for this question.

A random sample of 200 responses was selected for textual analysis. The project team was able to develop 10 themes from this text field that were frequently mentioned, and these are listed in order of frequency. Multiple themes were possible from each response.

Most of the reasons mentioned were related to size of ramps, noise related to ramp use, and safety of ramp users.

There were frequent mentions that participants were not in support of ramps.



Why do you think the City should not have standards to regulate sport ramps on residential properties?

Top 10 Themes

Should have some standards

Private property

Encourage kids/people to be active

Overly restrictive

Other sports/activities aren't regulated

Doesn't affect others negatively

Do not support residential ramps

Creativity

Safety

Negatively affects others

This question was optional. 1464 participants provided comments for this question.

A random sample of 200 responses was selected for textual analysis. The project team was able to develop 10 themes from this text field that were frequently mentioned, and these are listed in order of frequency. Multiple themes were possible from each response.

Most of the reasons mentioned were related to being private property and encouraging activity.

There were frequent mentions that there should be some standards, and also that some participants were not in support of ramps.



[Q7] Do you agree or disagree that sports ramps on residential properties should not require a development permit?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Strongly agree		49.3%	880
Somewhat agree		13.4%	239
Somewhat disagree		9.2%	165
Strongly disagree		28.1%	502
		Total Responses	1786

Participants generally agreed that a development permit should not be required



[Q5] How appropriate do you think the proposed maximum size is for sports ramps on residential properties?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Very appropriate		25.9%	463
Somewhat appropriate		32.4%	581
Somewhat inappropriate		14.3%	257
Very inappropriate		27.4%	490
		Total Responses	1791

Participants were generally supportive of the proposed maximum size of ramps.



[Q6] Why is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties inappropriate?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Too large		33.1%	247
Too small		26.9%	201
Other		40.0%	299
		Total Responses	747

Among those who didn't agree with the size maximums, there was division on what would be better.



If "Other":

Top 8 Themes

Do not support residential ramps

Size should not be regulated

Depends on size of yard

Limits the challenge

Length is too short

Height restriction only

Width is too narrow

Should be no regulation

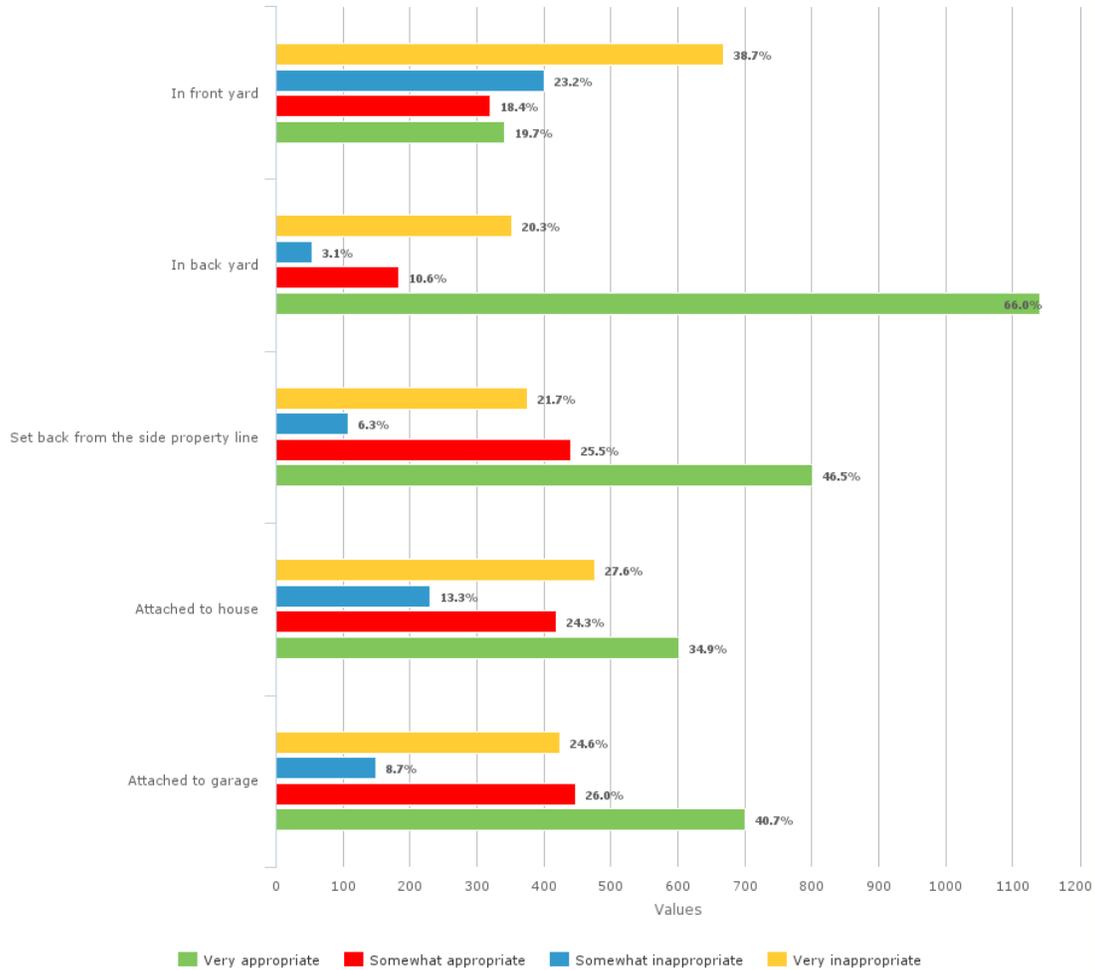
This question was optional. 275 participants provided comments for this question.

A random sample of 200 responses was selected for textual analysis. The project team was able to develop 8 themes from this text field that were frequently mentioned, and these are listed in order of frequency. Multiple themes were possible from each response.

There were frequent mentions that there should be no regulation, and also that some participants were not in support of ramps.



[Q8] How appropriate do you think the following sports ramp placements on lots would be?



While there is some appetite for various placements, most participants are comfortable with ramps being placed in back yards and not attached to houses, fences, or garages.



[Q1] The City of Calgary regulates noise on residential properties. This regulation sets maximum noise levels. The noise associated with sport ramp activities is being reviewed by The City.

If the noise associated with sport ramp activities is within the allowable noise limits, how concerned would you be if sports ramps were allowed on residential properties?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Very concerned		21.1%	407
Somewhat concerned		5.0%	96
Not very concerned		10.4%	201
Not at all concerned		63.5%	1227
		Total Responses	1931

Most participants were not concerned about noise from sports ramps on residential properties.



[Q2] What do you think the main noise concerns related to allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?

Top 9 Themes

Noise level

Continuous noise

Late night noise

Enforcement

Gatherings

Children/seniors

Material

Location in community

Lack of supervision

This question was optional. 460 participants provided comments for this question.

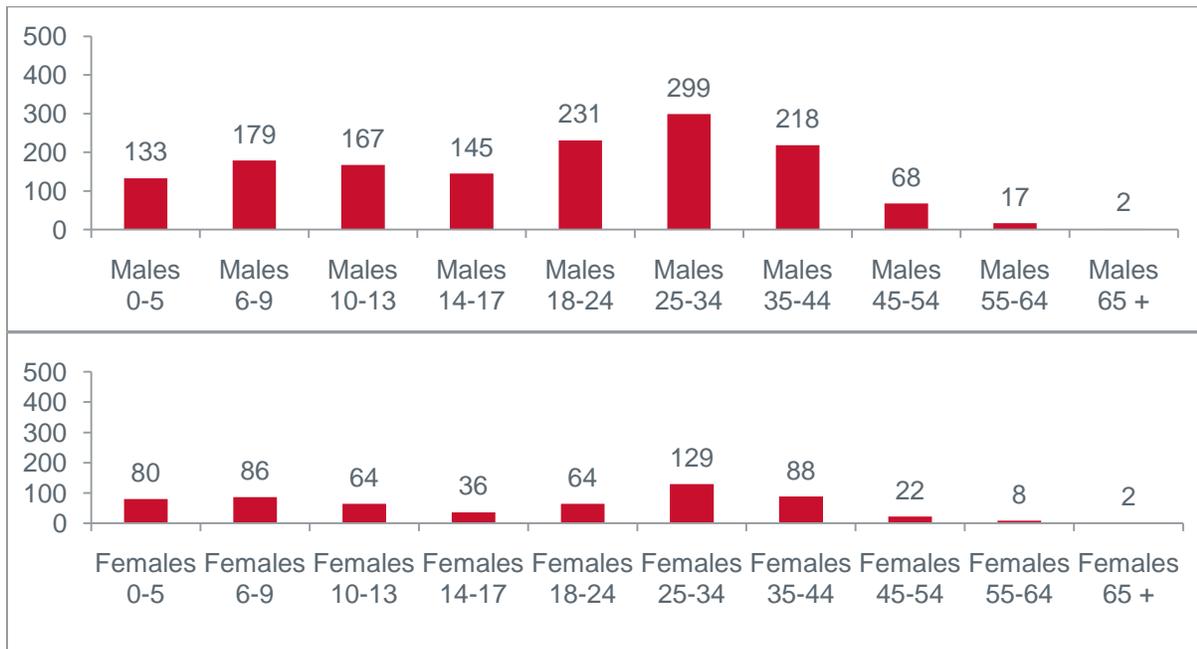
A random sample of 200 responses was selected for textual analysis. The project team was able to develop 9 themes from this text field that were frequently mentioned, and these are listed in order of frequency. Multiple themes were possible from each response.

Most of the noise concerns noted were related to noise level, continuous nature of noise, and timing of noise.



[Q12] Who in your household currently participates in any wheeled sports using sports ramps?

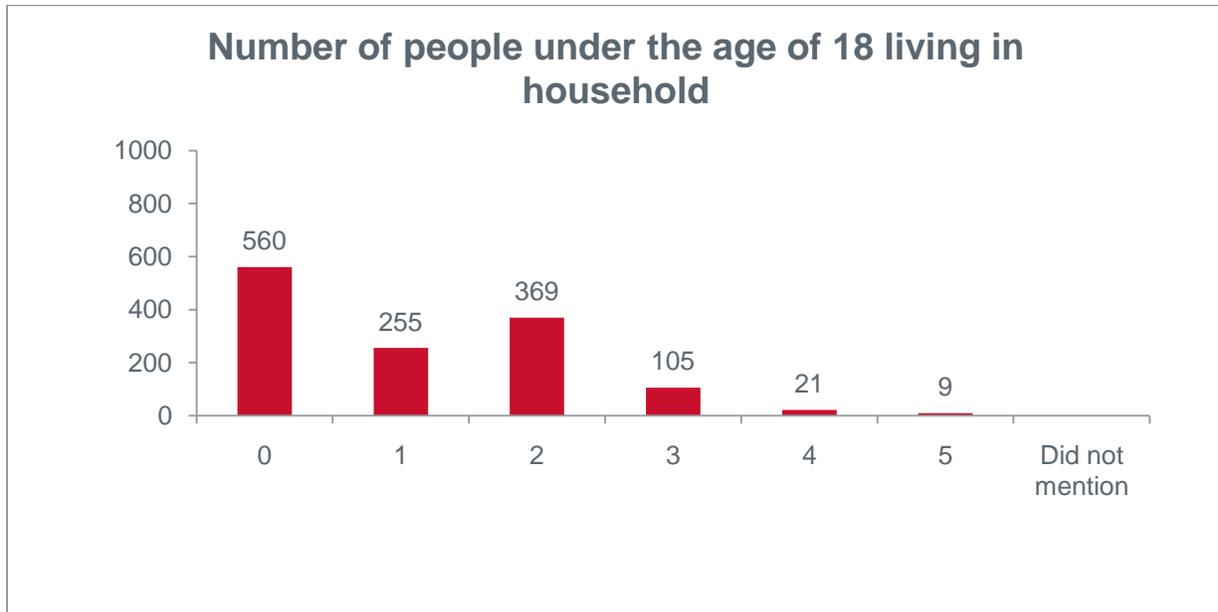
****Self-reported – may not reflect actual user demographics.****



Males aged 0-5	133	Females aged 0-5	80
Males aged 6-9	179	Females aged 6-9	86
Males aged 10-13	167	Females aged 10-13	64
Males aged 14-17	145	Females aged 14-17	36
Males aged 18-24	231	Females aged 18-24	64
Males aged 25-34	299	Females aged 25-34	129
Males aged 35-44	218	Females aged 35-44	88
Males aged 45-54	68	Females aged 45-54	22
Males aged 55-64	17	Females aged 55-64	8
Males aged 65 +	2	Females aged 65 +	2



[DEM1] How many people under the age of 18 live in your household?





[DEM2] Which of the following best describes your current home?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Single detached, semi-detached or duplex home		82.4%	1328
Town home, or multi-residential building		14.7%	237
Rural lot		2.9%	47
		Total Responses	1612

[DEM3] Do you currently own or rent your residence?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Own		83.2%	1344
Rent		16.8%	272
		Total Responses	1616

[DEM4] How long have you been a resident of Calgary?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Less than a year		1.5%	24
1 to less than 5 years		6.2%	102
5 to less than 10 years		10.1%	166
10 to less than 15 years		12.3%	202
15 years or more		70.0%	1151
		Total Responses	1645



Appendix: Questionnaire



Recreation on Residential Property Survey

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking a few minutes to provide your thoughts regarding recreation on private property. This form should not take more than 10 minutes to complete and will remain available until 4:00 PM on December 14, 2015. Please limit your submissions to one per household.

The personal information collected herein is authorized under Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of understanding citizens opinions related to recreation on private property. Your information will not be used for any other purpose. Survey data will be analyzed in aggregate only and no respondents will be personally identified. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this collection, please send an email to research@calgary.ca or contact us by phone at 311 and a Research Coordinator will follow up with you.

Please note that the online survey is hosted by "Fluid Surveys" which is a web survey company owned by Survey Monkey located in the USA. All responses to this survey will be stored and accessed in Canada. Fluid Surveys and Survey Monkey are subject to U.S. laws, in particular, to the U.S. Patriot Act that allows authorities access to the records of internet service providers. If you choose to participate in the survey you understand that your responses to the questions can be accessed in the USA. The security and privacy policy for Fluid Surveys can be viewed at <http://fluidsurveys.com>. The security and privacy policy for Survey Monkey can be viewed at <http://www.surveymonkey.com>.

Key Terms

Sports Ramps:

The Land Use Bylaw defines skateboard ramps (sports ramps) as a structure that is used to provide a surface upon which an individual may use or operate a skateboard, bicycle, roller skates or other similar devices. Sports ramps are all the structures (1 large or several small) that fit and are used within a proposed maximum envelope (3D box) dimension of 1.5 m high x 5 m wide x 6 m long.



NOISE

- 1. The City of Calgary regulates noise on residential properties. This regulation sets maximum noise levels. The noise associated with sport ramp activities is being reviewed by The City. If the noise associated with sport ramp activities is within the allowable noise limits, how concerned would you be if sports ramps were allowed on residential properties?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not very concerned
- Not at all concerned

- 2. If you are concerned, what do you think the main noise concerns related to allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?
[OPEN ENDED]



SIZE, PERMITTING AND PLACING

3. Did you know, before taking this survey that The City of Calgary has regulations for sports ramps on residential properties?

Yes
No
Don't know/Not sure

4. Do you think the City should have rules and standards to regulate sports ramps on residential properties?

Yes
No
Don't know/Not sure

[ASK ONLY IF YES]

4.A

Why do you think the City should have standards to regulate sport ramps on residential properties?

OPEN ENDED

[ASK ONLY IF NO]

4.B

Why do you think the City should not have standards to regulate sport ramps on residential properties?

[OPEN ENDED]



The proposed maximum size is 5' high, 16' wide and 20' long.

5. How appropriate do you think the proposed maximum size is for sports ramps on residential properties?

Very appropriate
Somewhat appropriate
Somewhat inappropriate
Very inappropriate

[ASK ONLY IF VERY OR SOMEWHAT INAPPROPRIATE]

6. Why is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties inappropriate?

Too large
Too small
Other _____

7. Do you agree or disagree that sports ramps on residential properties should not require a development permit?

Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree



[Show example placement images]

8. How appropriate do you think the following sports ramp placements on lots would be?

- Front yard unattached to fence
- Back yard unattached to fence
- Side yard unattached to fence
- Front yard attached to fence
- Back yard attached to fence
- Side yard attached to side fence
- Attached to house
- Attached to garage

- Very appropriate
- Somewhat appropriate
- Somewhat inappropriate
- Very inappropriate



OVERALL OPINIONS

9. Do you agree or disagree that sports ramps should be allowed on residential property?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

10. What do you think the main benefits of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?

[OPEN ENDED]

11. What do you think the main drawbacks of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?

[OPEN ENDED]

12. Who in your household currently participates in any wheeled sports using sports ramps?
Please indicate the number in each category.

Males aged 0-5

Males aged 6-9

Males aged 10-13

Males aged 14-17

Males aged 18-24

Males aged 25-34

Males aged 35-44

Males aged 45-54

Males aged 55-64

Males aged 65 or above

Nobody in my household currently participates in any wheeled sports using sports ramps

Females aged 0-5

Females aged 6-9

Females aged 10-13

Females aged 14-17

Females aged 18-24

Females aged 25-34

Females aged 35-44

Females aged 45-54

Females aged 55-64

Females aged 65 or above



DEMOGRAPHICS

This last section is used to help categorize responses. **Your responses will be kept confidential.**

DEM1. How many people under the age of 18 live in your household? (Optional)
[OPEN END, NUMBER FORMAT]

DEM2. Which of the following best describes your current home? (Optional)

- Single detached, semi-detached or duplex home
- Town home, or multi-residential building
- Farm
- Rural lot

DEM3. Do you currently own or rent your residence? (Optional)

- Own
- Rent

DEM4. How long have you been a resident of Calgary? (Optional)

- Less than a year
- 1 to less than 5 years
- 5 to less than 10 years
- 10 to less than 15 years
- 15 years or more

Thank you for taking part in the survey! For more information, please visit www.calgary.ca/sportsramps.