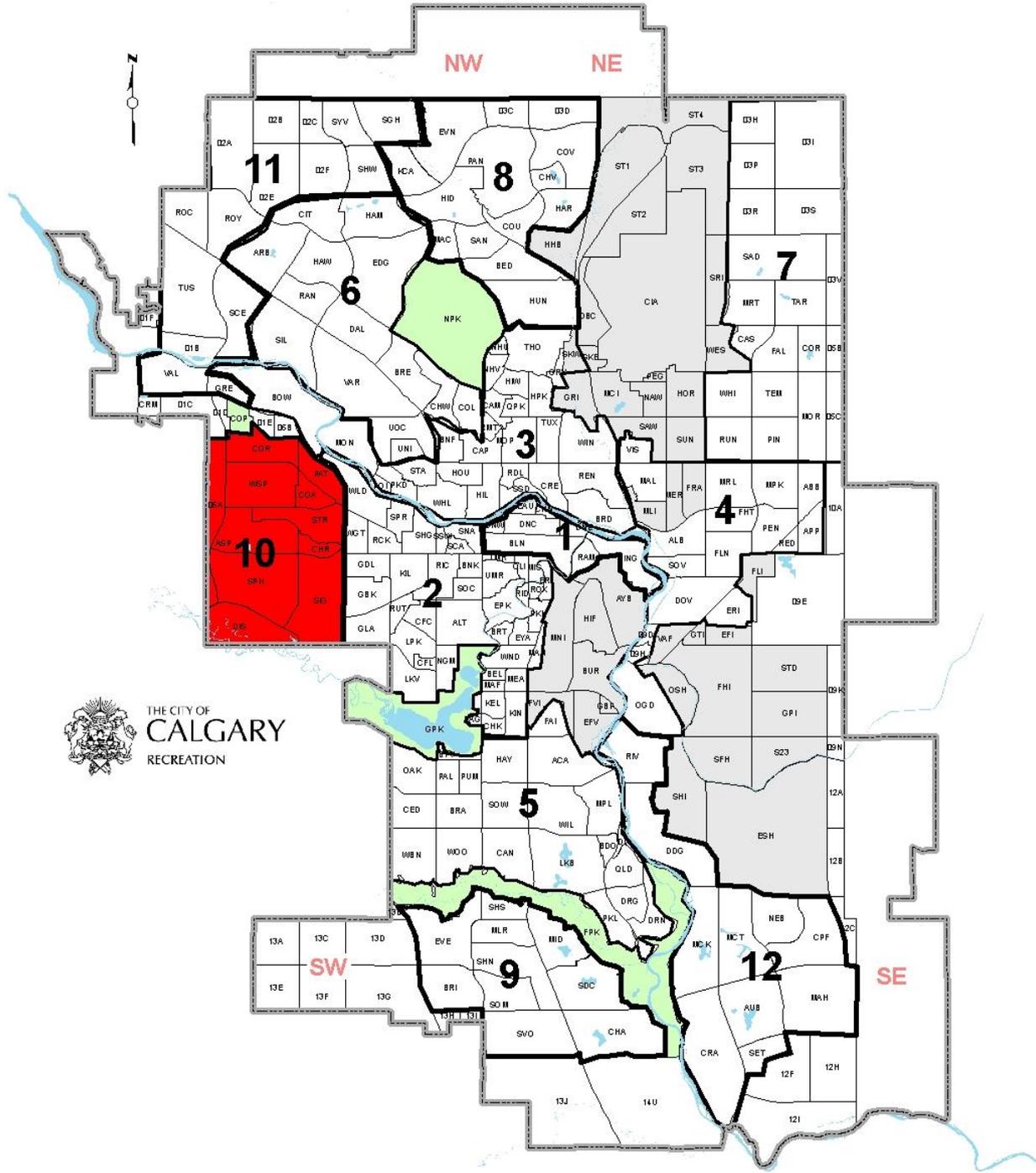

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 10



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Introduction

In 2008, The City of Calgary Recreation was directed by City Council to identify recreation gaps within the city and to develop a business case to address these gaps. Conducted in two phases (Parts I and II) by HarGroup Management Consultants and K. Knights and Associates Ltd, the Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis (RAGA) Studies examined the recreation needs and preferences of Calgarians in twelve areas of the city. These Study Areas were determined to be made up of communities relatively similar in terms of age and general demographics; boundaries were also drawn along natural geographic and transportation lines where possible.

Telephone surveys were conducted with a total of 6,024 randomly selected households (approximately 500 surveys completed within each of the twelve Study Areas). This data was supplemented with focus group interviews conducted with community leaders and various segments of the population. Additionally, information was incorporated from published reports about recreation and leisure activities, and from various planning initiatives including the Calgary Arts Development Authority, [Arts Spaces Strategy](#)¹, and the Calgary Sport Council, [A 10 Year Strategy for Sport Facility Development and Enhancement](#)².

Results of the RAGA surveys and focus groups affirm the importance of recreation and leisure in the lives of Calgarians across the city. Participants acknowledged the many individual and community benefits of recreation; indeed, 97% of survey respondents feel that it is important that The City of Calgary be involved in the provision of recreation opportunities. By providing a current and comprehensive snapshot of the recreation needs and preferences of Calgarians, the RAGA research can be used to guide strategic planning efforts in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, and can also serve as a foundation for future research into recreation and leisure in Calgary.

About This Report

This report is part of a series that provides a concise summary of each of the twelve individual Study Areas for easy and convenient reference by interested parties and stakeholders. It is not intended to replace the rich detail provided in the full report, which can be found [online](#)³. Readers are encouraged to consult the larger document for more detailed analyses and conclusions.

RAGA provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of the recreation activities that Calgarians engage in, and identifies needs, preferences, challenges and opportunities for recreation planning and service delivery across the city. However, while the results presented here are representative of the Study Area, they are not statistically valid at a community level. As such, RAGA cannot replace community needs and preference studies, but rather can provide a thorough and relevant context at the Study Area level that can in turn provide general insights into each region, and also guide the development of community-specific research initiatives.

¹ <http://www.calgaryartsdevelopment.com/artspace-strategy>

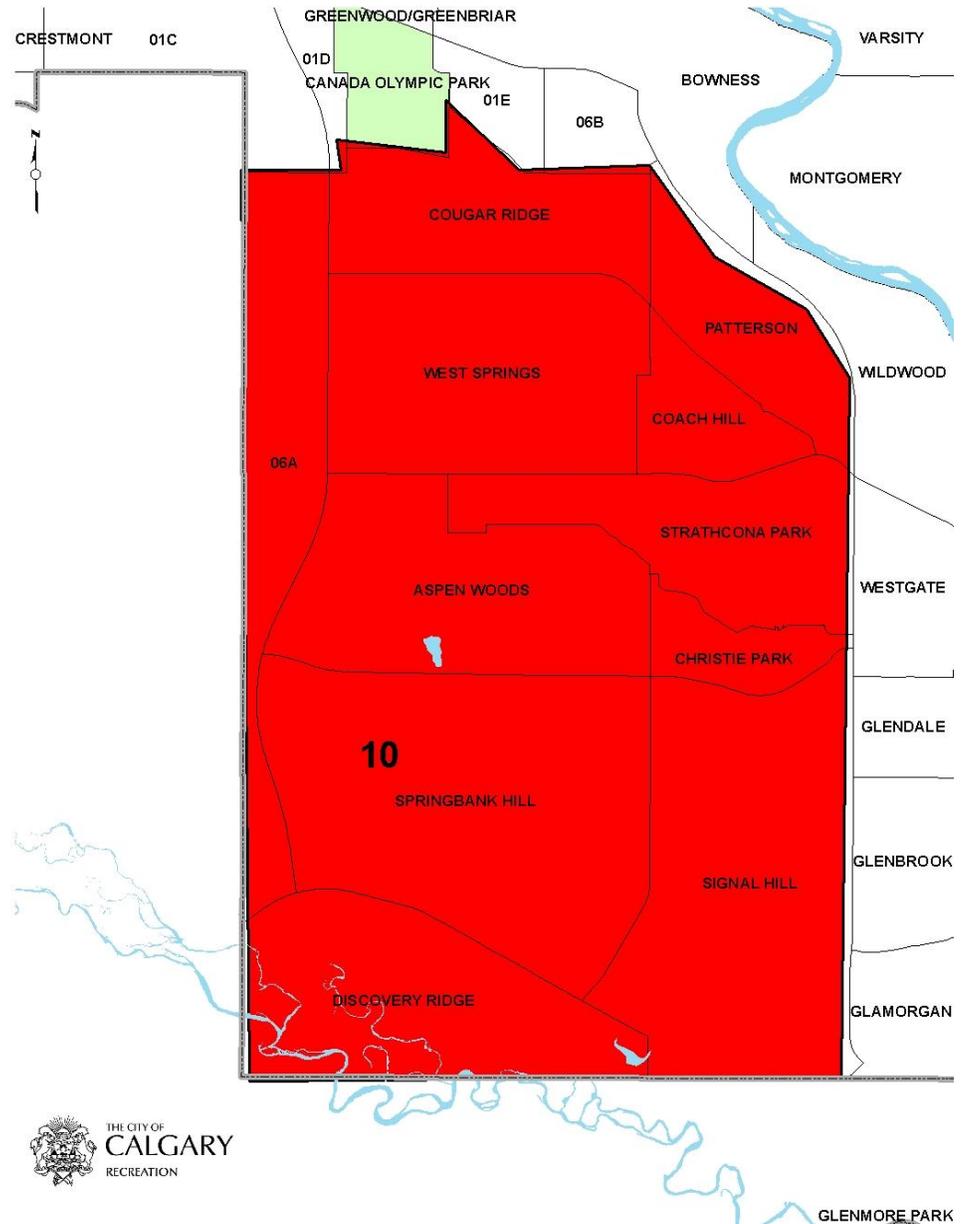
² http://www.calgarysportcouncil.ca/images/stories/File/homepage/final_report_sport_facility_strategic_plan_may_23_2008.pdf

³ http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf

Area 10

Area 10 is located in the north central region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Aspen Woods
- Christie Park
- Coach Hill
- Cougar Ridge
- Discovery Ridge
- Patterson
- Signal Hill
- Springbank Hill
- Strathcona Park
- West Springs



A total of 515 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 55,575⁴, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.30%, 19 times out of 20.

⁴ 2006 Federal Census

Geodemographics

Community Development

Development in Area 10 began in the 1970s, and continued into the mid 2000's.

While Calgary as a whole has experienced significant population growth, particularly in the past few decades, this growth has not been evenly distributed across the city, with some communities making significant gains while others lose residents. **In Area 10, the population has grown significantly in recent years; between 2002 and 2008, the population has increased by 21,668 residents, or 63.9%.**

City of Calgary planning documents suggest that in the short term (i.e. over the next 20 years), population growth will occur primarily in the inner city and in outlying areas, and those areas that have experienced population decline may in fact experience further decline as a reflection of typical community lifecycle aging. However, in the longer term, increased densification in Calgary is expected to take place in developed communities. The Municipal Development Plan states that The City of Calgary will endeavour to accommodate 50 per cent of future population growth over the next 60 to 70 years within Developed Areas of the city.

Such a projected community development pattern will have important implications for recreation amenity planning in Area 10. In particular, facility investment decisions, both in terms of new construction and lifecycle maintenance may need to balance a number of competing interests: For example, newer, growing communities on Calgary's periphery may need new infrastructure to provide residents with accessible recreation opportunities. At the same time, established communities with existing and/or aging infrastructure may require lifecycle upgrades and/or additional amenities in order to address projected long term growth, even though they may lose residents in the short term.

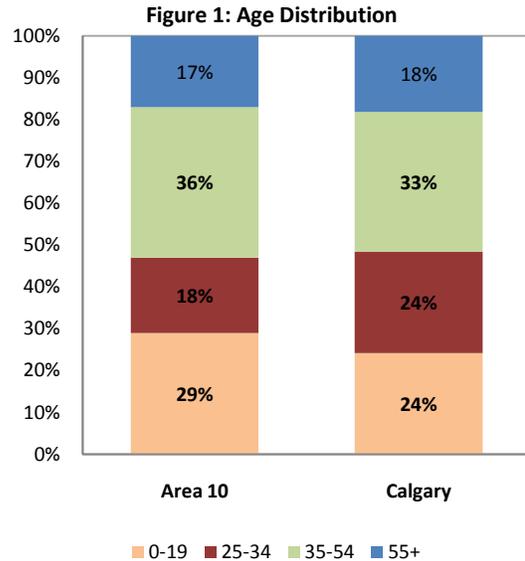
Area 10 is comprised of both older developed communities and new communities on Calgary's periphery, and will experience considerable population growth over the short and long term. This will place pressure on existing infrastructure and may increase demand for new recreation and leisure amenities. It will be important for recreation service providers and The City of Calgary to acknowledge these projections and to monitor community development as it unfolds in this area.

Population growth at the city level and community lifecycles are important and tangible considerations for recreation service planning and delivery in Calgary. Other considerations, such as the aging and growing diversity of the population will help shape the expectations that Calgarians have for recreation service provision in different areas of the City.

Age

Data indicate that there are a number of distinctive age profiles in different areas of Calgary. **In Area 10, there is a higher proportion of children and youth compared to Calgary as a whole, but a lower proportion of residents aged 25-34.** This suggests a higher than average composition of young families with in Area 10.

It should be noted, however, that the overall demographic profile of Calgary is expected to change over the next few decades. In particular, the age composition of residents will become older. In contrast, growth in the number of residents who are newborn to age 14 within the city will be minimal. Should these trends continue over the next two decades, there is likely to be a substantial effect on the demand for recreation and leisure, most notably a significant increase in demand from pre-seniors and seniors as the baby boomers age. This demographic shift may be reflected in changing recreation and leisure needs and preferences of residents in Area 10.



Data collected for RAGA suggests that these older residents are likely to be more involved in recreation and leisure pursuits compared to previous generations of seniors. In particular, they will likely want to be both physically and mentally active to ensure that they maintain a quality of life that is sustainable for longer than has been observed in previous generations.

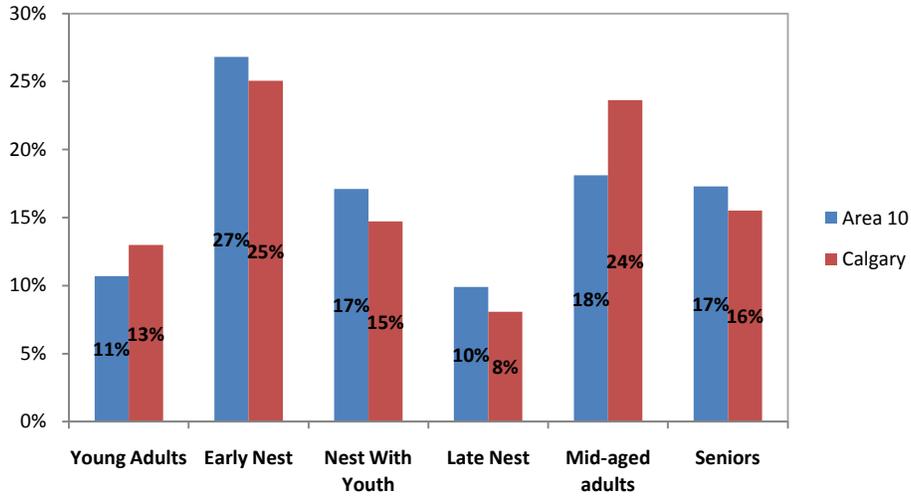
Family Life Stage

Family life stage is based on the concept that most families progress through a number of distinct phases over time, particularly with respect to household composition (both ages of household members and identified categories of household). RAGA divided survey respondents into six family life stages:

- **Young adults (without children/youth)** – adults are primarily under 45 years of age, no children or youth are present;
- **Early nest** –children/youth are primarily under 13 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Nest with youth** –children/youth are primarily between 13 and 19 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Late nest** –children/youth are primarily between 20 and 24 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Mid-aged adults** – adults are primarily between 45 and 64 years of age, no children or youth present; and
- **Seniors** –adults are primarily 65 years of age or older, no children or youth present.

Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 10 residents are also somewhat different than for Calgary as a whole. Currently, one-quarter of Calgary's population is in early nest households, and another one-quarter are in mid-aged adult households. **Notably, Area 10 has higher proportions of Early Nest, Nest with Youth and Late Nest households, and a lower proportion of Mid-aged Adults and Seniors.** This suggests that the recreation and leisure needs and preferences in Area 10 may be family-oriented, and that if the population profile remains constant, some of the changes associated with the aging population may not be felt in this part of Calgary as early as in other Areas of the city.

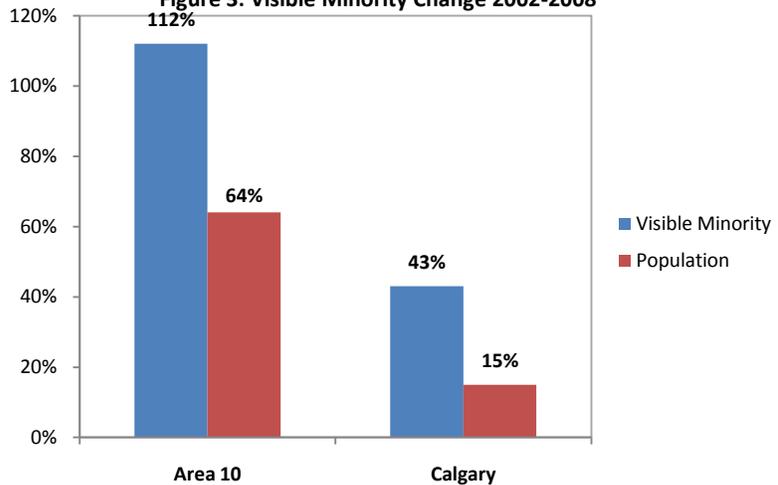
Figure 2: Family Life Stage



Diversity

Not only is Calgary's population growing, it is also becoming more diverse. Data from Statistics Canada show that between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Calgary's population considered to be visible minorities rose from 19%, or one in five residents, to 23%, or nearly one in four residents. In fact, the visible minority population in Calgary increased 43% between 2001 and 2006 compared to 15% for the population as a whole

Figure 3: Visible Minority Change 2002-2008



between 2002 and 2008. **In Area 10, the visible minority population increased at a substantially faster rate (112%) than the population between 2002 and 2008.** This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 10 have changed considerably and quickly.

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Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. However, **Area 10 is similar in terms of ethnic origins of residents to Calgary as a whole. There is a somewhat higher concentration of residents Southern Europe.**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 10	Calgary	Origin	Area 10	Calgary
British Isles origins	46	45	Arab origins	3	2
Western European origins	21	21	Aboriginal origins	2	4
Other North American origins	19	20	Caribbean origins	1	1
Eastern European origins	18	16	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
East and Southeast Asian origins	14	13	African origins	1	2
Southern European origins	10	7	West Asian origins	1	1
French origins	9	10	Oceania origins	0	0
Northern European origins	8	8			
South Asian origins	4	6			

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

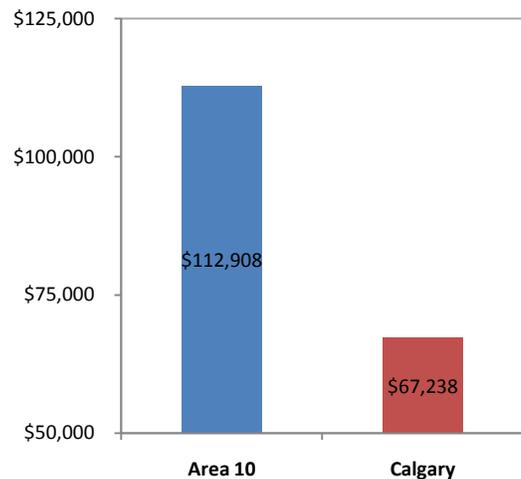
≤3% of Calgary Average

Increasing diversification has the potential to impact recreation amenity provision to the extent that it introduces or emphasizes different and/or specialized recreation needs and preferences, as well as distinct cultural, language and community traditions.

Household Income

RAGA found that household income levels among the various Study Areas differ considerably. **Median annual household incomes in Area 10 the highest in Calgary, by an average of more than \$45,500 - than for the city as a whole.** The affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in the city is a concern among many Calgarians, particularly those with lower household incomes, and impacts the degree to which they consider themselves involved in recreation and leisure activities.

Figure 4: Household Income

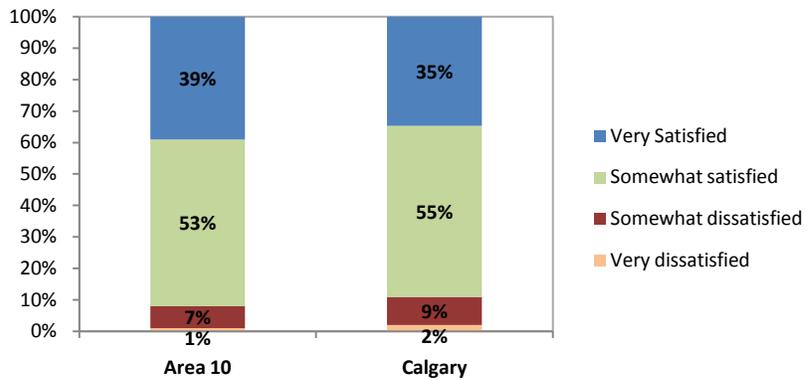


Overall Perceptions of Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

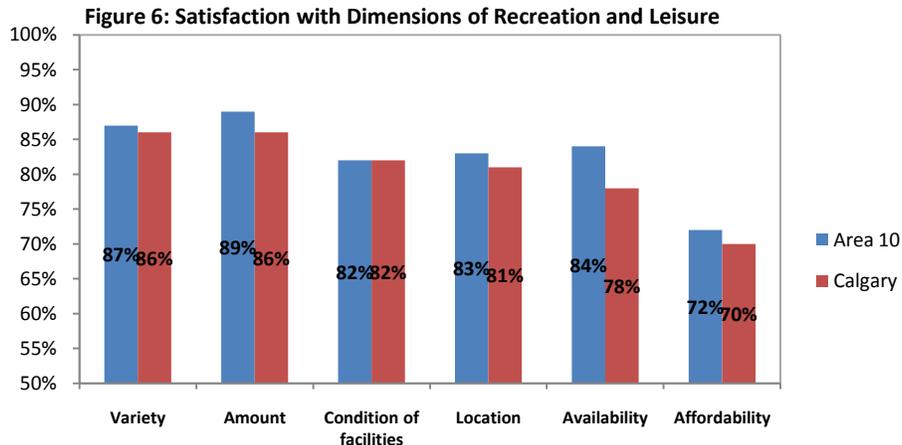
The RAGA survey results found that for the most part, Calgarians are satisfied with the recreation and leisure activities undertaken by members of their household. Overall, nine in ten respondents (90%) stated that they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with their recreation and leisure activities. Still, there are notable differences observed among the various Study Areas, especially when the ‘very satisfied’ responses are considered.

Results from the RAGA surveys show that while overall satisfaction levels are high, **respondents from Area 10 were slightly more likely to state that they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with their recreation and leisure activities compared to respondents from all Study Areas combined.**

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities



There are a number of factors that may contribute to the overall satisfaction that Calgarians have with the recreation and leisure activities of their households. The amount and variety of recreation opportunities, the location of opportunities and the condition of recreation facilities, the availability of suitable recreation opportunities and their affordability are all thought to play a role in how individuals, families and communities experience recreation. The RAGA surveys explored satisfaction along these dimensions; Figure 6 shows the percentage of respondents from Area 10 and from all Calgarians who were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhere satisfied’ with each.



Survey results indicate that respondents are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others. Overall, almost nine out of ten respondents indicated that they were 'very satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with the amount of recreation and leisure opportunities, (89%) and with the variety of activities available (87%). Further, almost three quarters are satisfied with the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities, which is slightly higher than the rating for Calgary as a whole.

On all dimensions, residents of Area 10 gave equal or higher satisfaction ratings than residents of Calgary as a whole. In particular, **Area 10 residents were significantly more satisfied with the amount of recreation opportunities than were Calgarians as a whole.**

Of all of the aspects of recreation and leisure service provision that were examined, affordability rated lowest among residents of Calgary as a whole as well as those in Area 10. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents with lower household incomes are significantly less likely to be satisfied with affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities than households with higher incomes. In addition respondents from early nest and nest with youth households are less satisfied with the variety, condition, location and availability of recreation and leisure opportunities. Finally, RAGA found that for the city as a whole, visible minority respondents are markedly less satisfied with the amount, location and affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in Calgary.

Level of Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

To gain a sense of Calgarians' involvement in recreation and leisure, respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they perceive themselves to be involved with recreation and leisure activities. As can be seen in Figure 7, a slightly larger proportion of Area 10 respondents (75%) indicated that they were 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure as compared to Calgary as a whole (73%), which is consistent with the higher satisfaction ratings given by Area 10 respondents.

Survey findings suggest that similar to Calgary as a whole, early nest, nest with youth and late nest households (i.e. households with children present) in Area 10 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages. Further, Mid aged adult households in Area 10 more often indicated being involved in recreation and leisure (+9%) than in Calgary as a whole.

Figure 7: Perceived Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

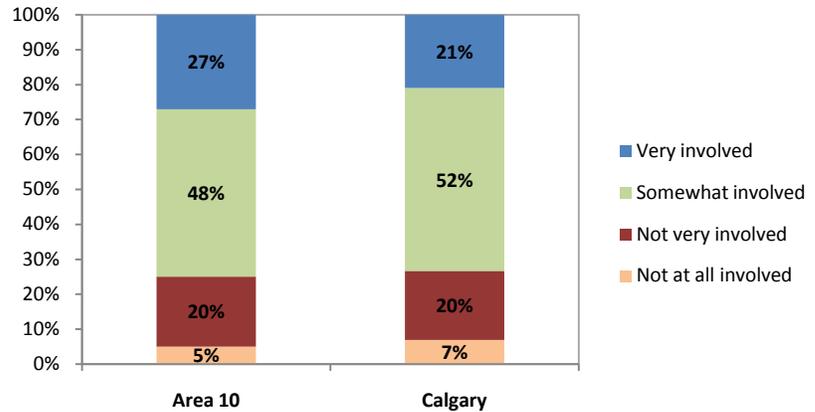
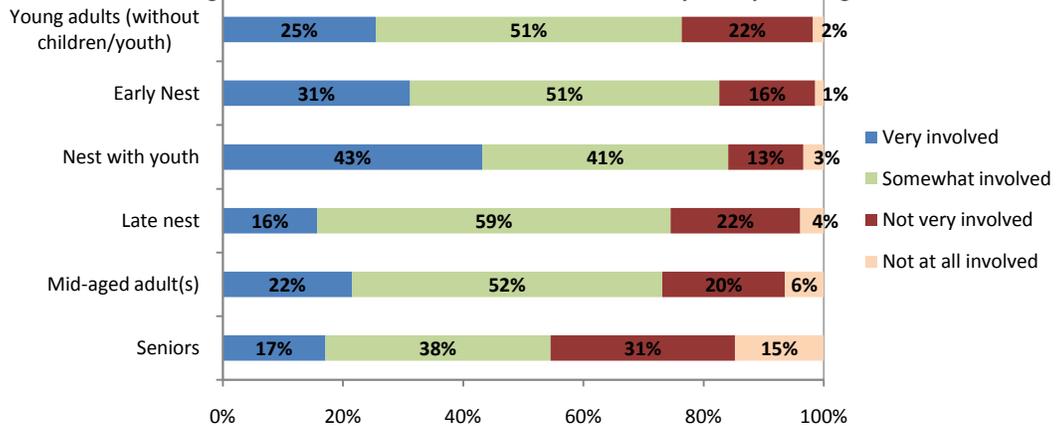


Figure 8: Involvement in Recreation and Leisure by Family Life Stage



Recreation and Leisure Activities

One way that RAGA examined involvement in recreation and leisure activities was by considering the types of activities that Calgarians across the various age cohorts participate in. From this exploration a number of general observations were made, which apply to Area 10 as well as to Calgary as a whole.

- Swimming, cycling and walking are multi-generational activities, ranking in the top ten activities among all age groups.
- Fitness training becomes popular among 13 to 19 year olds, and remains popular throughout the older cohorts.
- Individual pursuits such as fitness training, golf, reading books, hiking, running/jogging, yoga, gardening, and attending musical concerts and live theatre become more prominent in the 20 to 44 year age group and continue into later age groups.
- Children and youth are more likely to be involved in a variety of sport activities and involvement in sport decreases and, in some cases changes as a person ages.
- Creative activities such as playing a musical instrument and participating in ballet and jazz dancing are more likely to be engaged in among children/ youth, while observatory arts and cultural activities such as musical concerts and live theatre become more prominent in adulthood.
- Beginning in the 45 to 64 age group, more passive activities such as traveling, volunteering, and attending a sport event as a spectator become prominent. These types of activities continue into the 65+ age category, with increased popularity in book reading, gardening and more social activities like playing cards, attending church, and playing board games/puzzles.

Table 2 reflects the higher involvement in recreation and leisure activities reported by residents of Area 10 compared to Calgary as a whole. The RAGA surveys asked respondents to identify recreation and leisure activities in which members of their household had participated in the previous twelve months. While the top reported activities are relatively consistent, there are significant differences in the frequency with which residents from each age cohort report having engaged in certain activities over the previous year.

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Table 2: Top 30 Most Common Activities by Age Group (Area 10)

Under 13 (n=165)		13-19 (n=123)		20-44 (n=274)		45-64 (n=265)		65+ (n=114)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - lessons	73	Swimming - for pleasure	33	Fitness training - workout/gym	55	Walking for pleasure	57	Walking for pleasure	62
Swimming - for pleasure	57	Fitness training - workout/gym	33	Swimming - for pleasure	39	Fitness training - workout/gym	44	Golf	22
Soccer - Outdoor	35	Cycling - for pleasure	28	Walking for pleasure	28	Cycling - for pleasure	29	Fitness training - workout/gym	19
Going to the park/playground	27	Soccer - Outdoor	27	Cycling - for pleasure	27	Golf	29	Swimming - for pleasure	18
Cycling - for pleasure	27	Hockey - Ice	24	Running	27	Swimming - for pleasure	22	Books/reading	14
Skating for pleasure/fun	24	Soccer - Indoor	20	Skiing - Alpine	20	Skiing - Alpine	15	Cards/playing	14
Music - play an instrument	19	Basketball	17	Golf	18	Hiking	13	Hiking	8
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	18	Skiing - Alpine	15	Hiking	16	Books/reading	12	Television - watching	8
Skiing - Alpine	17	Snowboarding	13	Park	14	Running	12	Skiing - Alpine	6
Hockey - Ice	16	Football	13	Books/reading	10	Attend movies	8	Yoga	6
Soccer - Indoor	14	Music - play an instrument	12	Yoga	10	Attend music concert	7	Cycling - for pleasure	5
Books/reading	13	Running	12	Television - watching	10	Gardening	6	Traveling	5
Computer - games	13	Badminton	12	Hockey - Ice	9	Attend live theatre (not movies)	6	Visiting friends/relatives	4
Television - watching	10	Computer - games	11	Attend movies	9	Television - watching	6	Volunteering	4
Walking for pleasure	9	Attend movies	11	Skating for pleasure/fun	8	Skating for pleasure/fun	6	Attend live theatre (not movies)	4
Craft or hobby	9	Walking for pleasure	9	Soccer - Outdoor	8	Park	6	Gardening	3
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	9	Hiking	9	Attend music concert	7	Tennis	6	Attend music concert	3
Basketball	8	Books/reading	7	Basketball	5	Yoga	5	Camping	3
Zoo	8	Swimming - lessons	7	Gardening	5	Traveling	5	Curling	3
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	8	Golf	7	Visiting friends/relatives	4	Hockey - Ice	5	Board games/puzzles	3
Dancing - Other - Participant	7	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	7	Camping	4	Skiing - Nordic	5	Dancing - Other - Participant	3
Hiking	7	Television - watching	7	Tennis	4	Curling	5	Attend movies	3
Baseball	7	Skateboarding	5	Soccer - Indoor	4	Attend a sport event (spectator)	4	Attend a sport event (spectator)	3
Golf	5	Skating for pleasure/fun	4	Baseball	4	Visiting friends/relatives	3	Craft or hobby	2
Martial arts	4	Tennis	3	Attend live theatre (not movies)	3	Camping	3	Church	2
Visiting friends/relatives	3	Visiting friends/relatives	2	Craft or hobby	3	Volunteering	3	Aquasize	2
Camping	1	Dancing - Other - Participant	2	Computer - games	2	Fishing	3	Bowling - 5/10 pin	1
Going to the library	1	Baseball	2	Snowboarding	2	Dancing - Other - Participant	3	Knitting/sewing	0
Camp (summer/day camp)	1	Camping	1	Fishing	1	Craft or hobby	2	Library	0
	1	Going to the library	1	Library	0	Library	1	Park	0

In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 10 participate in certain recreation activities to in larger proportions than in Calgary as a whole, and others in smaller proportions. Further, data show that Area 10 residents participate in fewer activities on average than in all Areas combined.

Among the under-13 year old age group, swimming, either for pleasure or in lessons was the most common activity in Area 10 as it was for all Study Areas, and swimming lessons was indicated by 13% more residents in Area 10 than in Calgary as a whole. Other notable differences between Area 10 and Calgary as a whole include computer games (+6%), going to the library (-8%), camping (-8%) and outdoor soccer (-7%).

Swimming for pleasure and fitness training were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 10, and while swimming for pleasure was reported by a smaller proportion (-9%) of Area 10 residents compared to Calgary as a whole, fitness training was reported by a larger proportion (+10%). Ice hockey was also more common in Area 10 (+6%), while other activities, including walking for pleasure (-6%) and camping (-6%) were less common than in Calgary as a whole.

In the 20 to 44 age group, fitness training was the top rated activity in Area 10, and was reported at a 15% higher rate than in Calgary as a whole. Running (+11%) and alpine skiing (+9%) were also more common in Area 10 (+11%), while a number of other activities were less common, including walking for pleasure (-13%), going to the library (-7%) and visiting friends and relatives (-6%).

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was most common and was prevalent in all Areas, though Area 10 residents reported it at a rate lower than in Calgary as a whole. Swimming for pleasure (-9%), and visiting friends and relatives (-8%) were also less common among Area 10 residents of this cohort. In contrast, fitness training was more common in Area 10 (+10%) than in Calgary as a whole.

Walking for pleasure was the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 10, but was reported by a lower proportion of Area 10 residents (-8%) than Calgarians as a whole. Residents of this cohort in Area 10 were slightly more involved in playing cards (+5%), yoga (+3%) and alpine skiing (+3%), but were considerably less involved in a number of other activities, including visiting friends and relatives (-17%), gardening (-12%) and reading (-10%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 10 participate are similar to those in other areas, though their level of involvement tends to be lower than in Calgary as a whole. Fitness training is participated in by a higher proportion of residents in a number of age cohorts, while visiting friends and relatives seems less common than in other areas of Calgary.

Barriers to Recreation and Leisure Involvement

RAGA survey respondents were asked to identify factors that may prevent them and/or members of their household from being involved in recreation and leisure activities to the extent that they would like. Interestingly, 51% of all respondents and 55% of respondents from Area 10 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. Still, more than four in ten respondents in this Area indicated that they would like to recreate more than they do currently, and are facing one or more barriers. Moreover, these perceived barriers may represent potential opportunities for recreation service providers to improve recreation products, services and facilities to address some of these challenges, and ultimately provide more opportunities for all Calgarians to increase/maintain their level of participation in recreation activities.

Table 3: Barriers to participation in recreation activities (%)		
	Area 10	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	68	63
Already participate as often as would like	55	51
Involved in other activities	10	9
Just lazy	2	2
Not interested	1	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
Other priorities/time constraints	18	17
No time	8	9
Work commitments	6	6
Family commitments	4	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	0	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	10	14
Too far away/inconvenient	3	4
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Opportunities available too full/crowded	2	1
Nothing organized/available	2	1
Other	0	0
Prices/fees too high/too costly	0	3
Opportunities available do not my schedule	0	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
Social Isolation	4	6
Cannot afford	2	3
Poor health/physically challenged	1	2
Age (too old)	1	1
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	100	100

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Recreation service providers may be in a position to address certain barriers, such as those related to facility/program accessibility and social isolation, which may present opportunities for enhanced or additional services. Barriers related to personal situations and time constraints, however, may be less easily addressed. Indeed, some of the common barriers identified by Area 10 households – no time and involved in other activities – are not easily remedied through enhancing infrastructure or services. With such low proportions of residents identifying specific barriers, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions, though the development at the WinSport Canada site, and perhaps even the planned regional recreation facility in the Northwest (if easily accessible) could improve program/facility accessibility for many Area 10 residents, and may make it easier to find time for certain recreation and leisure pursuits.

Latent Demand for Recreation and Leisure

As a primary goal of RAGA was to identify potential service/amenity gaps, survey respondents were specifically asked if there were recreation and leisure activities that they were interested in and in which activities they do not currently participate. RAGA survey results indicate that just 21% of respondents from Area 10, compared to 30% of respondents from all Study Areas combined were interested in one or more other recreation activities that they do not currently participate in. This was the lowest proportion reported in any of the Study Areas. Table 4 shows the percentage of respondents interested in participating in each of the top 30 most common activities.

Table 4: Recreation Activities of Interest (%)					
(Organized by Top 30 Most Common Activities)					
	Area 10	Calgary		Area 10	Calgary
	(n=515)	(n =6,024)		(n=515)	(n=6,024)
Fitness training - workout/gym	3	4	Parachuting	1	1
Swimming - for pleasure	2	4	Dancing - Ballroom	1	1
Tennis	2	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Martial arts	1	2	Soccer - Outdoor	0	1
Yoga	1	2	Hockey - Ice	0	1
Swimming - lessons	1	1	Golf	0	1
Art class/program	1	2	Craft or hobby	0	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Running/jogging	0	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	1	2	Badminton	0	1
Walking for pleasure	1	1	Rock climbing	0	1
Music - play an instrument	1	1	Hiking	0	1
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1	Baseball	0	1
Attend educational courses	1	1	Curling	0	1
Skiing - Alpine	1	1	Courses	0	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	1	1	Aquasize	0	1

The activities indicated are numerous and varied, but in many instances are similar to the commonly reported activities of other respondents. Interestingly, swimming and fitness training - both facility-based activities - were the most frequently mentioned activities of interest. Again, the

regional recreation facility planned in the Northwest may provide opportunities for many of the activities of interest identified by Calgarians in this Area.

Recreation and Leisure Amenity Use

RAGA demonstrates that Calgarians on the whole expect The City of Calgary to be involved in the provision of recreation and leisure services, and a primary goal of RAGA was to identify gaps in recreation and leisure service provision. To do so, it was important to consider amenity use.

In Calgary, there are recreation and leisure amenities available to all residents, regardless of where they may reside. At a minimum, there are parks and pathways that offer recreation and leisure opportunities at no cost, and these are important and well used amenities among residents. However, RAGA findings suggest that there may be special circumstances in each area of the city that recreation service providers ought to consider in terms of providing recreation and leisure opportunities to Calgarians.

	Area 10 (n=515)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 10 (n=515)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	82	85	Indoor ice rinks	23	22
Pathways	80	78	Playgrounds or tot lots	18	22
Public Libraries	69	67	Arts centres or arts studios	17	15
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	61	61	Multi-purpose rooms	16	13
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	61	53	Indoor rectangular fields	14	17
Performance theatres or stages	43	44	Dance studios	13	19
Outdoor rectangular fields	42	32	Outdoor Tennis courts	11	19
Gymnasiums	34	30	Meeting rooms	0	17
Outdoor ice rinks	34	29	Classrooms	0	16
Neighbourhood gathering places	32	42	Running Track	0	2
Indoor ice rinks	28	30	Outdoor ball diamonds	0	8
Playgrounds or tot lots	24	37	Lawn bowling greens	0	4

Overall, Area 10 residents use some of the listed recreation and leisure amenities at higher levels than do Calgarians as a whole, and others at lower levels. As in all areas, parks and pathways are the most commonly used amenities, likely because they are located throughout the city, are multi-purpose and have no cost. Not surprisingly, Area 10 residents use fitness facilities in greater proportions, and use neighbourhood gathering places and meeting rooms in lower proportions than do Calgarians as a whole

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The specific amenities that residents of Area 10 use can be found in the main RAGA Report; a listing of the top 5 most frequently used amenities in each category is provided in Appendix A.

Perceived Recreation and Leisure Amenity Gaps

To gain an understanding of community perspectives on possible gaps in available recreation and leisure amenities, survey respondents were asked to identify amenities that they felt were needed within their areas.

On the whole, a considerable portion of respondents from Area 10 (46%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is similar to the city as a whole (47%). An indoor ice rink and large regional recreation centre were the most frequently identified amenities needed in Area 10, while a Leisure Centre was not often mentioned in comparison to Calgary as a whole.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)

	Area 10 (n=515)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 10 (n=515)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	46	47	Aquatic/fitness Centre	2	2
Indoor ice rink	9	9	Arts centres or arts studios	2	2
A(nother) regional recreation facility	9	6	A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	2	3
Outdoor ice rinks	6	4	Indoor tennis	2	1
Parks	6	5	Playgrounds/tot lots	2	1
An indoor swimming pool	5	8	A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	1	7
Pathways	5	5	Gathering places for community residents	1	2
Indoor rectangular fields	4	3	A public library branch	1	2
Gymnasium	3	3	Squash/racquetball	1	1
A community centre	3	3	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
Outdoor tennis	3	1	Skateboard park	1	1
More facilities/amenities	3	3	Dance studios	1	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	3	2	Public golf course/golf facility	0	1
Other	2	4	Outdoor ball diamonds	0	1
Multi-purpose room	2	2	Classrooms	0	1
Outdoor pool	2	1	Running track/indoor/outdoor	0	1

Summary and Conclusion

The research conducted as part of RAGA suggests a number of important considerations that must be made when thinking about recreation amenity planning and delivery in Calgary. Broad trends, such as the growing, aging and diversifying population will impact the demand for various recreation and leisure opportunities throughout the city. However, one of the key benefits of RAGA is the demonstration of how different regions of the city vary in terms of involvement, activities, barriers and perceived amenity gaps. Such knowledge offers a great deal of insight for recreation and leisure service providers in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors alike.

As has been shown, Area 10 has some similarities to the rest of Calgary, but also has some particular characteristics that set it apart from other areas of the city, including:

- Significant population growth and diversification in recent years; significant development likely in the short and long term, as outlined in the Municipal Development Plan.
- Higher than average household incomes
- Higher than average levels of perceived involvement in recreation and leisure activities, though lower levels of actual involvement in some activities
- Higher than average levels of satisfaction with various dimensions of recreation service provision.
- Similar levels perceived new amenity needs as in Calgary as a whole.

While no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive, the findings suggest that the regional recreation facility being planned in Calgary's Northwest may benefit many Area 10 residents by providing the types of accessible recreation opportunities that they desire. In addition, it will be important to consider how the proportionately large population of families with children in Area 10 at present, together with the aging of Calgary over the next two decades will affect demand for recreation at the community level. At the same time, the densification and increasing diversity in established communities such as those in Area 10 will continue to shape the nature and extent of participation in recreation, and how satisfied residents are with the opportunities available to them, or face barriers which prevent them from experiencing the individual and community benefits of recreation.

Ultimately, responsive recreation service provision in Area 10, as in all areas of Calgary, will require an ongoing commitment to public engagement and a careful monitoring of demographic and recreation trends among all Calgarians.

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Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 10 survey respondents (Top 5 for each amenity type)

Parks (n=437)		Pathways (n=421)		Indoor Swimming Pools or Leisure Aquatic Facilities (n=305)		Public Libraries (n=356)		Playgrounds/Tot Lots (n=210)		Fitness Facilities (n=294)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Edworthy Park	29	In community	53	Westside Recreation Centre	65	Signal Hill/Westhills	88	In community	86	Westside Recreation	62
In community	28	Edworthy Park	16	Killarney Aquatic and Fitness Centre	17	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	3	Don't know	8	Other	4
Glenmore Reservoir/Park	10	Bow River Pathway	10	Talisman Centre	4	Shaganappi	3	Other	6	Spa Lady	4
Bowness Park	10	Griffith Woods Park	7	Other	3	Other	2	Total	100	Mount Royal College	4
North Glenmore	5	Other	6	Glencoe Club	3	Don't know	2			Good Life Fitness	3
Total	82	Total	92	Total	92	Total	98				
Neighbourhood Gathering Places (n=238)		Performance Theatres and Stages (n=271)		Outdoor Rectangular Fields (n=164)		Indoor Ice Rinks (n=162)		Gymnasiums (n=181)		Outdoor Ice Rinks (n=173)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	49	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	22	Community	63	Westside Recreation	60	Westside Recreation	60	In community/centre	60
Community Centres	24	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	21	Other	20	Other	14	Other	13	Park/Lake	23
Don't know	12	Jubilee Auditorium	15	Don't know	7	Calgary Centennial Arenas	6	Schools	5	Other	7
Parks	7	Other	15	School	4	U of C- Olympic Oval	5	Don't know/Refused	4	Olympic Plaza	4
Westside Recreation Centre	4	Stage West	7	Glenmore Athletic Park	2	Optimist/George Blundon arena	5	U of C	4	Don't know	3
Total	96	Total	80	Total	96	Total	90	Total	86	Total	97
Outdoor Ball Diamonds (n=178)		Running Tracks (n=178)		Multi-Purpose Rooms (n=178)		Arts Centres/Arts Studios Rooms (n=118)		Indoor Rectangular Fields (n=86)		Outdoor Tennis Courts (n=109)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	62	Other	n/a	Westside Recreation Centre	50	Other	23	Calgary West Soccer Centre	26	In community	n/a
Don't know	21	Talisman Centre	n/a	Community Centres	19	Don't know/Refused	15	Other	20	Other	n/a
School (not post secondary)	7	Family Leisure Centre	n/a	Other	12	Downtown- Unspecified	13	Westside Recreation Centre	19	Don't know	n/a
Optimist Athletic park	4	YMCA (no specific facility)	n/a	Don't know/Refused	6	Wildflower Art Centre	12	Don't know	17		
Shouldice Park	3	Don't know	n/a	Southland Leisure Centre	4	Glenbow Museum	11	Calgary Soccer Centre	6		
Total	97	Total	0	Total	91	Total	74	Total	88		0
Classrooms (n=76)		Dance Studios (n=76)		Indoor Tennis Courts (n=22)		Meeting Rooms (n=76)		Squash and Racquetball Courts (n=76)			
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%		
Other	27	Private Facility/Studio	50	Don't know	n/a	Other	48	Other	n/a		
Don't know	22	Other	21	Other	n/a	Other community centres	15	Fish Creek Racquet And Fitness Club	n/a		
Schools	20	Don't know/Refused	12	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	n/a	Westside Recreation Centre	12	Don't know	n/a		
Westside Recreation Centre	13	Other Community Centres	6	U of C	n/a	Don't know	9	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	n/a		
Mount Royal College	7	Wildflower Art Centre	2	Southland Leisure Centre	n/a	Workplace (offices)	6	Mount Royal College	n/a		
Total	89	Total	91	Total	0	Total	90	Total	0		