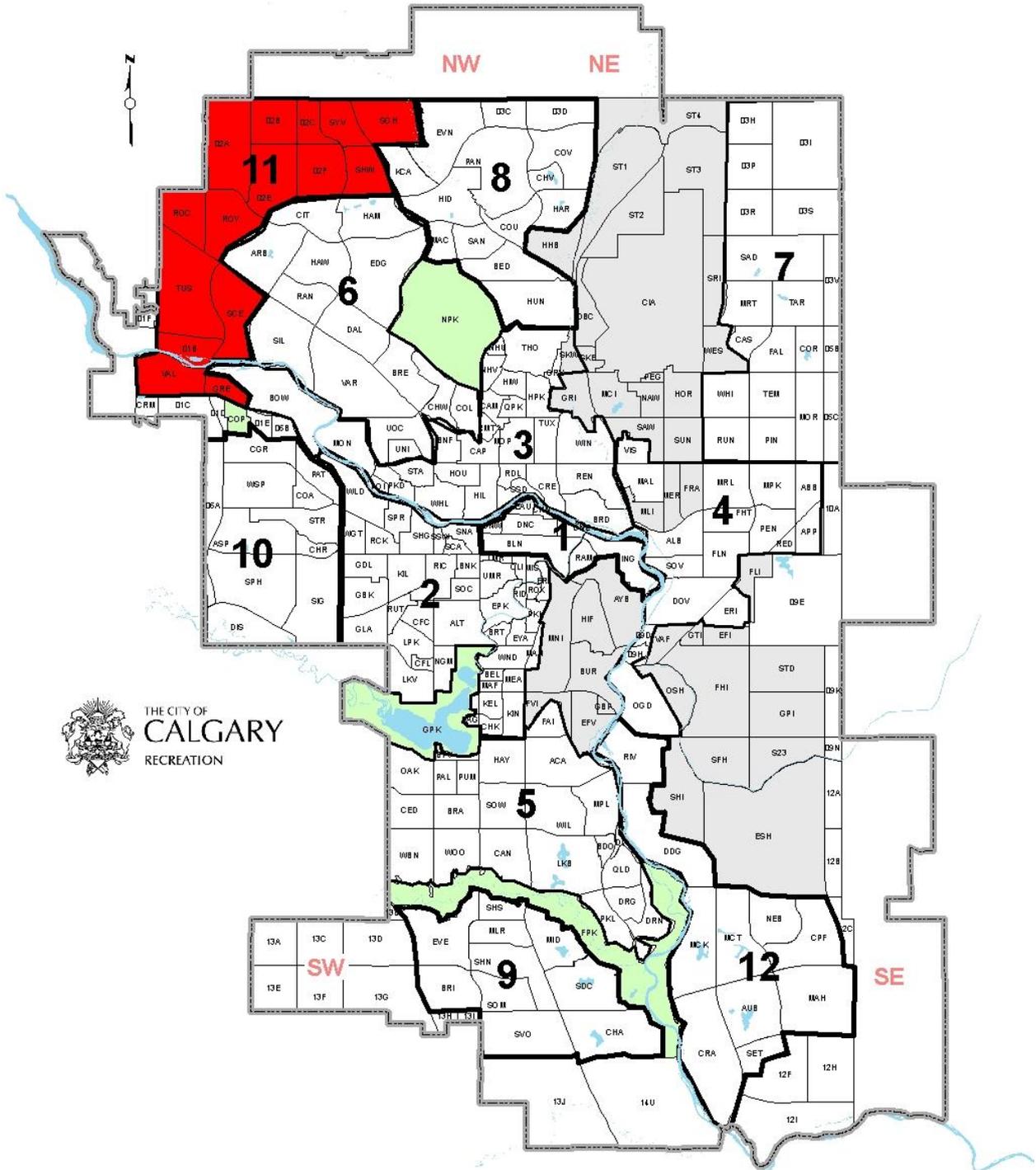

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 11



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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 Calgary's 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 in turn can provide general insights into each region, and also guide the development of community-specific research initiatives.

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

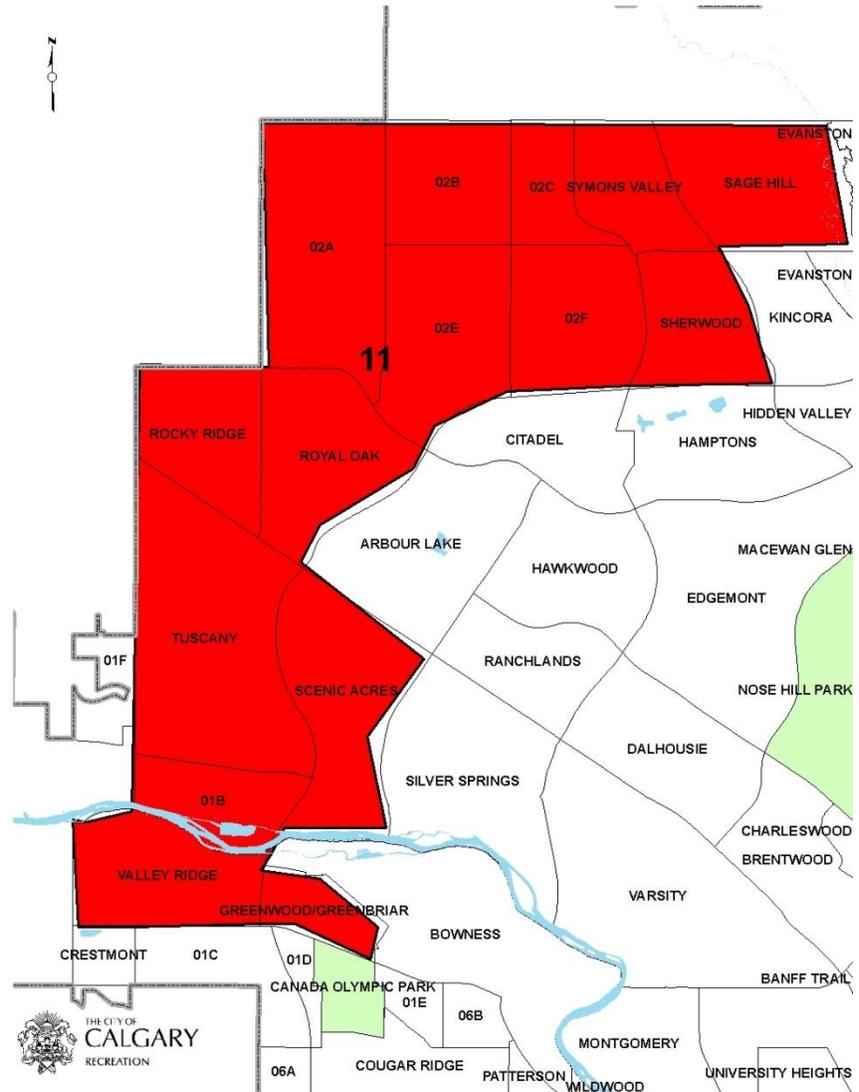
² http://www.calgarysportcouncil.ca/images/stories/File/homepage/final_report_sport_facility_strategic_plan_may_23_2008.pdf

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

Area 11

Area 11 is located in the far Northwest region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Greenwood/Greenbriar
- Rocky Ridge
- Royal Oak
- Sage Hill
- Scenic Acres
- Sherwood
- Symons Valley
- Tuscany
- Valley Ridge



A total of 500 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 53,674⁴, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.36%, 19 times out of 20.

⁴ 2006 Federal Census

Geodemographics

Community Development

Development in Area 11 began in the 1980s, 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. **Area 11 is by far the fastest growing region of Calgary; between 2002 and 2008, the population has increased by 24,685 residents, or 96.5%.**

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 11. 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.

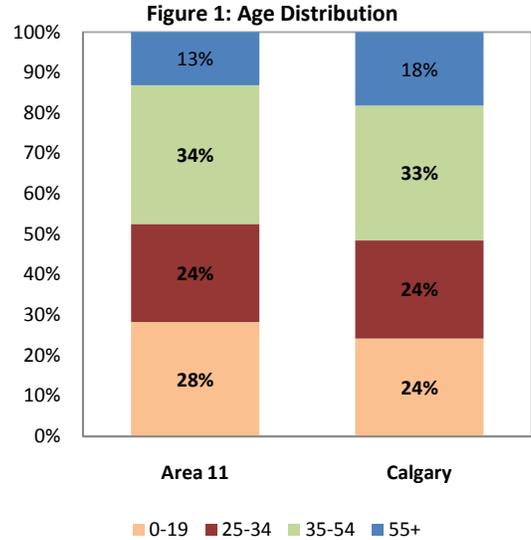
Area 11 is made up of some of the newest communities on Calgary's periphery, and will continue to experience considerable population growth over the short and long term. This will place pressure on the limited existing infrastructure and may increase demand for new recreation and leisure amenities. It 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 11, there is a higher proportion of children and youth compared to Calgary as a whole, and a lower proportion of residents over the age of 55. This suggests a higher than average composition of young families with children in Area 11.

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. Combined with the rapid growth of Area 11 communities, this demographic shift may be reflected in changing recreation and leisure needs and preferences of residents.



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.

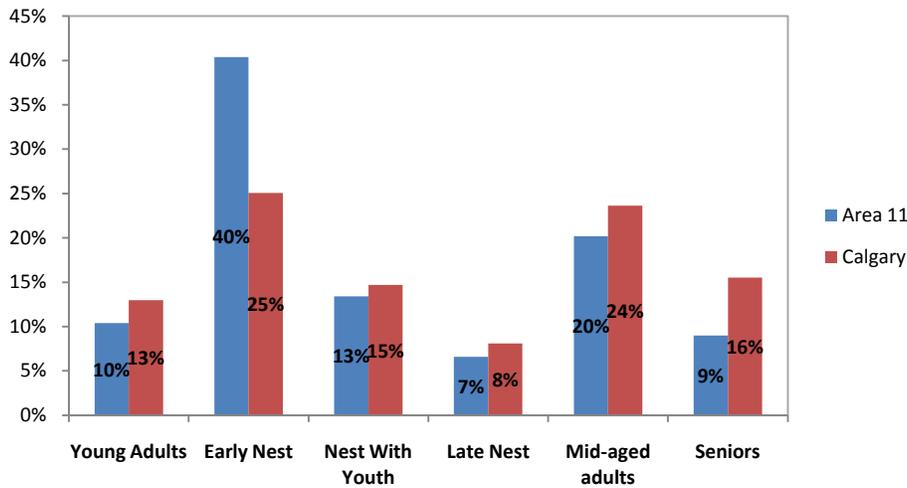
Family Life Stage

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.

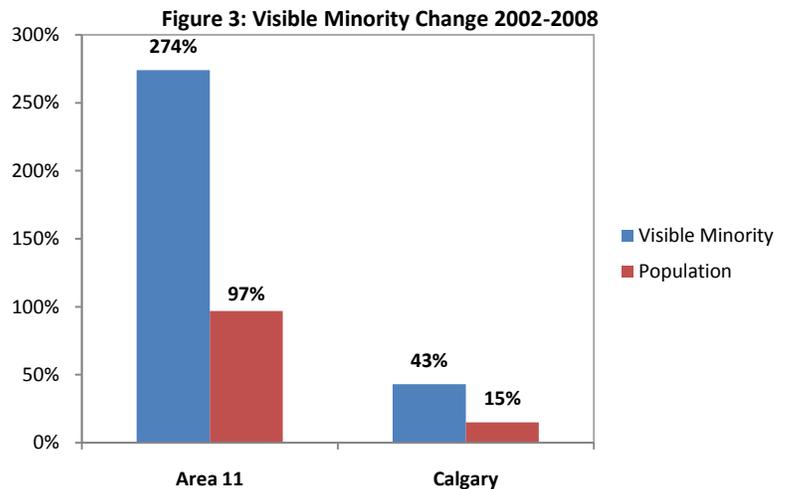
Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 11 residents are also somewhat different than for Calgary as a whole. Currently, one-quarter of Calgary's population is in early nest households, and another one-quarter are in mid-aged adult households. **Notably, fully one in four households in Area 11 are Early Nest households, while another two in ten are Mid Aged Adult households.** This suggests that the recreation and leisure needs and preferences in Area 11 may be family-oriented, but also that households without children make up a considerable proportion of the population. 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 between 2002 and 2008. **In Area 11, the visible minority population increased at a**



substantially faster rate (274%) than the population between 2002 and 2008. This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 11 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 11 is similar in terms of ethnic origins of residents to Calgary as a whole. There is a somewhat higher concentration of residents from the British Isles, as well as Eastern and Western European countries**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 11	Calgary	Origin	Area 11	Calgary
British Isles origins	48	45	Aboriginal origins	3	4
Western European origins	25	21	African origins	2	2
Other North American origins	21	20	Caribbean origins	1	1
Eastern European origins	19	16	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
French origins	11	10	Arab origins	1	2
East and Southeast Asian origins	11	13	West Asian origins	1	1
Northern European origins	8	8	Oceania origins	0	0
Southern European origins	8	7			
South Asian origins	6	6			

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

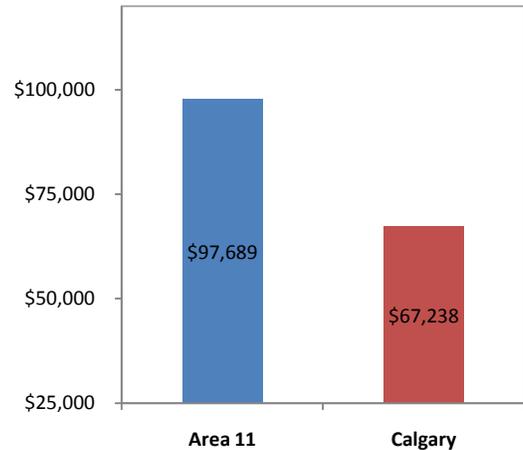
≤3% of Calgary Average

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 11 are among the highest in Calgary, and are higher by an average of more than \$30,000 compared to Calgary 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 11 were similarly 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.**

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 11 and from all Calgarians who were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with each.

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

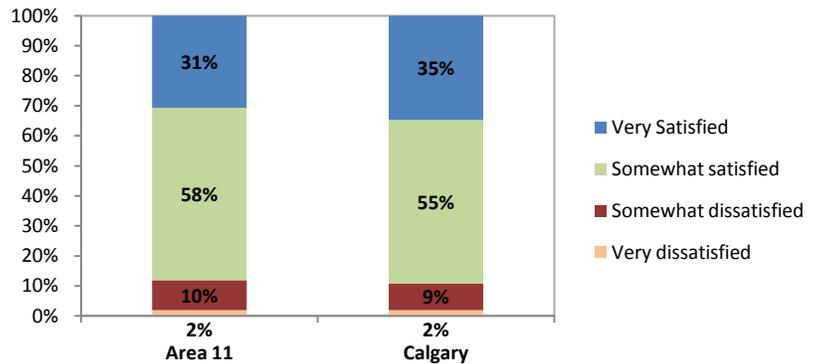
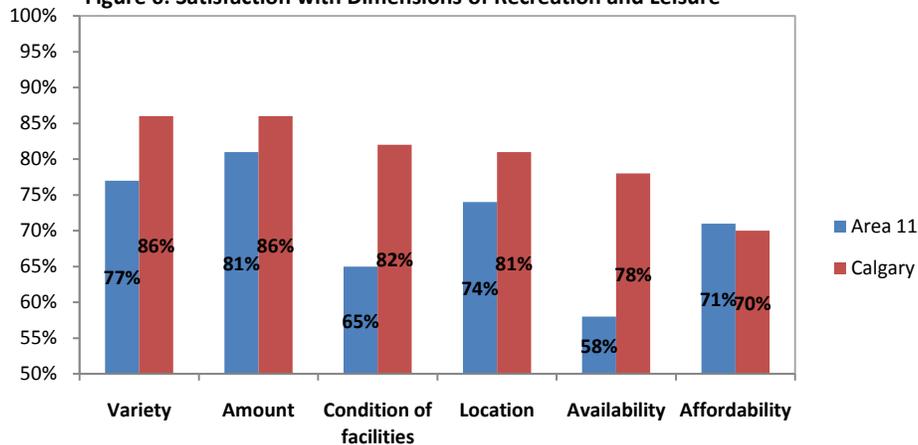


Figure 6: Satisfaction with Dimensions of Recreation and Leisure



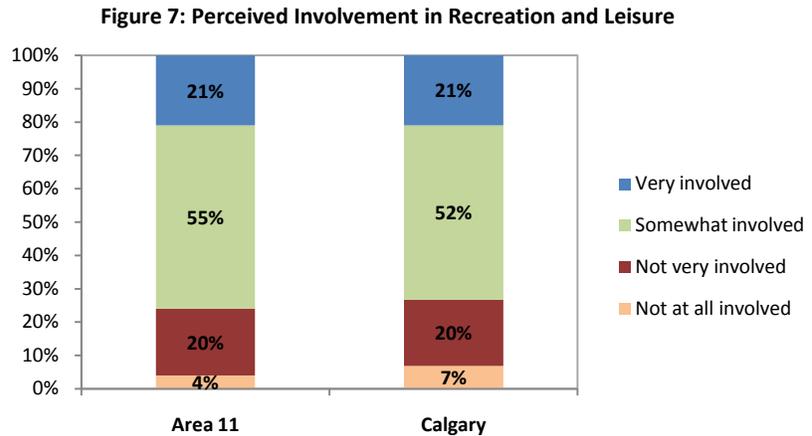
Survey results indicate that while Area 11 residents report overall satisfaction levels that are similar to Calgary as a whole, their reported levels of satisfaction with various dimensions were generally lower. In particular, just under two thirds of Area 11 respondents indicated that they were 'very satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with the condition of recreation facilities (65%), compared to 82% in Calgary as a whole. In addition, just 58% were satisfied with the availability of recreation facilities, compared with 78% in Calgary as a whole.

Given that Area 11 communities are among the newest in Calgary, and located on the periphery of the city at some distance from established recreation amenities, the lower relative satisfaction with various dimensions is not altogether surprising. The new regional recreation facility being planned in Calgary's Northwest will provide a host of added recreation and leisure opportunities to Area 11 households, and should thereby help increase residents' satisfaction with the various dimensions.

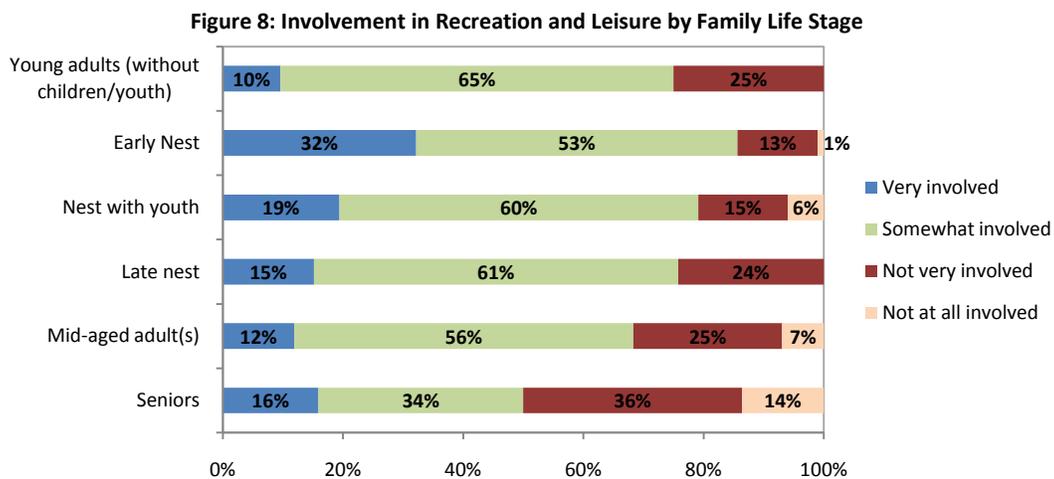
Of all of the aspects of recreation and leisure service provision that were examined, affordability rated lowest among residents of Calgary as a whole as well as those in Area 11. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents with lower household incomes are significantly less likely 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 11 respondents (76%) indicated that they were 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure as compared to Calgary as a whole (73%), which at first glance may not seem consistent with the lower satisfaction ratings given by Area 11 respondents, but is consistent with the age profile of its communities.



Survey findings suggest that similar to Calgary as a whole, early nest and nest with youth households (i.e. households with children present) in Area 11 are the most likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages; they indicated their involvement at similar levels than in Calgary as a whole. In contrast, Seniors households in Area 11 less often indicated being involved in recreation and leisure (-8%) than in Calgary as a whole.



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 11 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 11 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 11)

Under 13 (n=217)		13-19 (n=86)		20-44 (n=317)		45-64 (n=224)		65+ (n=62)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - lessons	71	Swimming - for pleasure	37	Swimming - for pleasure	50	Walking for pleasure	76	Walking for pleasure	68
Swimming - for pleasure	66	Fitness training - workout/gym	28	Walking for pleasure	48	Fitness training - workout/gym	37	Books/reading	39
Soccer - Outdoor	47	Cycling - for pleasure	23	Fitness training - workout/gym	44	Cycling - for pleasure	32	Golf	37
Cycling - for pleasure	29	Basketball	23	Cycling - for pleasure	38	Hiking	29	Visiting friends/relatives	24
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	29	Hockey - Ice	19	Running	22	Golf	27	Swimming - for pleasure	23
Going to the park/playground	28	Walking for pleasure	16	Hockey - Ice	18	Swimming - for pleasure	23	Fitness training - workout/gym	19
Skating for pleasure/fun	28	Soccer - Outdoor	14	Hiking	17	Books/reading	20	Gardening	16
Hockey - Ice	24	Music - play an instrument	14	Park	16	Running	16	Television - watching	16
Music - play an instrument	20	Computer - games	13	Skating for pleasure/fun	14	Skiing - Alpine	13	Cards/playing	16
Soccer - Indoor	18	Hiking	12	Golf	13	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Cycling - for pleasure	13
Walking for pleasure	18	Running	12	Books/reading	13	Skating for pleasure/fun	9	Hiking	11
Skiing - Alpine	17	Soccer - Indoor	10	Skiing - Alpine	13	Hockey - Ice	9	Craft or hobby	11
Basketball	13	Skiing - Alpine	10	Soccer - Outdoor	9	Traveling	8	Library	11
Books/reading	12	Books/reading	10	Tennis	9	Attend music concert	8	Park	10
Baseball	12	Football	10	Camping	8	Tennis	8	Skiing - Alpine	8
Martial arts	12	Golf	10	Yoga	7	Television - watching	7	Attend a sport event (spectator)	8
Camping	10	Snowboarding	9	Library	7	Yoga	7	Traveling	6
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	10	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	9	Baseball	6	Attend movies	6	Church	6
Hiking	9	Swimming - lessons	8	Craft or hobby	6	Attend a sport event (spectator)	6	Volunteering	5
Going to the library	9	Baseball	8	Soccer - Indoor	5	Camping	5	Attend music concert	5
Dancing - Other - Participant	8	Badminton	7	Basketball	5	Library	5	Camping	5
Craft or hobby	8	Camping	7	Fishing	5	Attend live theatre (not movies)	5	Aquasize	5
Zoo	7	Attend movies	6	Snowboarding	5	Craft or hobby	5	Dancing - Other - Participant	3
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	7	Skateboarding	6	Visiting friends/relatives	4	Skiing - Nordic	5	Board games/puzzles	2
Camp (summer/day camp)	6	Television - watching	6	Attend movies	3	Gardening	4	Attend movies	2
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	6	Skating for pleasure/fun	5	Television - watching	3	Park	4	Attend live theatre (not movies)	0
Computer - games	5	Tennis	3	Attend music concert	3	Curling	4	Curling	0
Television - watching	4	Going to the library	3	Computer - games	3	Volunteering	3	Bowling - 5/10 pin	0
Golf	2	Visiting friends/relatives	1	Gardening	3	Fishing	2	Knitting/sewing	0
Visiting friends/relatives	1	Dancing - Other - Participant	1	Attend live theatre (not movies)	2	Dancing - Other - Participant	2	Yoga	0

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In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 11 participate in many recreation activities in larger proportions than in Calgary as a whole, and others in smaller proportions. Further, data show that Area 11 residents participate in a similar number of 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 11 as it was for all study areas, and swimming lessons were indicated by 11% more residents in Area 11 than in Calgary as a whole. Other notable differences between Area 11 and Calgary as a whole include gymnastics (+15%), ice hockey (+8%), and visiting friends and relatives (-4%).

Swimming for pleasure and fitness training were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 11, and were reported by 5% more and 5% fewer respondents of this cohort, respectively, than in Calgary as a whole. Basketball was also more common in Area 11 (+6%), while other activities, including outdoor soccer (-9%) and indoor soccer (-8%) were less common than in Calgary as a whole.

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming for pleasure was the top rated activity in Area 11, and was reported at a 5% higher rate than in Calgary as a whole. Cycling for pleasure (+10%) and walking for pleasure (+7%) were also more common in Area 11, while a number of other activities were less common, including visiting friends and relatives (-6%) and attending movies (-5%).

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was most common and was prevalent in all Areas, though Area 11 residents reported it at a rate 10% higher than in Calgary as a whole. Hiking (+10%) and running (+5%) were also more common among Area 11 residents of this cohort. In contrast, swimming for pleasure (-10%) and gardening (-6%) were less common in Area 11 than in Calgary as a whole.

Walking for pleasure was the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 11 as well as Calgary as a whole, and was reported in similar proportions. Other activities, such as books/reading (+15%) and golf (+15%) were considerably more common in Area 11, while curling (-5%) and attending love theatre (-5%), were reported by a lower proportion of Area 11 residents.

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 11 participate are similar to those in other areas, though their level of involvement in many cases tends to be similar or higher than in Calgary as a whole. While no trends were immediately evident across age cohorts, the lower involvement of youth in soccer, both indoor and outdoor is notable, given the relatively close proximity of a number of athletic parks to Area 11 communities.

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 56% of respondents from Area 11 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 11	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	64	63
Already participate as often as would like	56	51
Involved in other activities	6	9
Not interested	1	1
No children/children grown up	1	0
Just lazy	0	2
Other priorities/time constraints	13	17
No time	8	9
Work commitments	4	6
Family commitments	1	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	0	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	21	14
Too far away/inconvenient	7	4
Other	5	0
Opportunities available too full/crowded	3	1
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	2	2
Nothing organized/available	2	1
Prices/fees too high/too costly	1	3
Opportunities available do not my schedule	1	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
Social Isolation	2	6
Cannot afford	1	3
Age (too old)	1	1
Poor health/physically challenged	0	2
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	100	100

**Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report
Area 11**

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 11 households – no time and involved in other activities – are not easily remedied through enhancing infrastructure or services. The regional recreation facility planned for the Northwest may help address the “too far away inconvenient” barrier identified by a number of survey respondents. However, with such low proportions of residents identifying specific barriers, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions.

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 indicated that 31% of respondents from Area 11, 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. 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 11	Calgary		Area 11	Calgary
	(n= 500)	(n=6,024)		(n= 500)	(n=6,024)
Fitness training - workout/gym	5	4	Skiing - Alpine	1	1
Swimming - for pleasure	4	4	Skating for pleasure/fun	1	1
Tennis	2	2	Parachuting	1	1
Martial arts	2	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Yoga	2	2	Hockey - Ice	1	1
Art class/program	2	2	Golf	1	1
Music - play an instrument	2	1	Craft or hobby	1	1
Soccer - Outdoor	2	1	Running/jogging	1	1
Rock climbing	2	1	Badminton	1	1
Swimming - lessons	1	1	Hiking	1	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Baseball	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	1	2	Curling	1	1
Walking for pleasure	1	1	Dancing - Ballroom	0	1
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1	Courses	0	1
Attend educational courses	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 Calgaryans 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.

Table 5: Current Amenity Use (%)					
	Area 11 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 11 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	88	85	Outdoor ice rinks	21	22
Pathways	82	78	Gymnasiums	20	22
Public Libraries	68	67	Arts centres or arts studios	19	16
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	66	61	Multi-purpose rooms	19	19
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	59	53	Outdoor ball diamonds	18	17
Playgrounds or tot lots	43	37	Classrooms	17	17
Neighbourhood gathering places	42	42	Running Track	17	19
Performance theatres or stages	39	44	Outdoor Tennis courts	15	15
Indoor ice rinks	38	30	Meeting rooms	14	13
Outdoor rectangular fields	37	32	Indoor rectangular fields	7	8
Outdoor ice rinks	35	29	Dance studios	5	4
Gymnasiums	31	30	Squash/Racquetball courts	2	2

Overall, Area 11 residents use a number 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 11 residents use fitness facilities in greater proportions than in Calgary as a whole; interestingly, residents report using outdoor rectangular fields at somewhat higher levels, which may suggest that they are engaged in activities other than soccer.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 11 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 relatively small proportion of respondents from Area 11 (23%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is much lower than for the city as a whole (47%). A regional recreation facility was identified by 22% of residents and a leisure centre by another 18%. Clearly, Area 11 residents are feeling the need for new recreation infrastructure, and the RAGA study was a key piece of research which resulted in the facility being planned in the Northwest.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)					
	Area 11 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 11 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	23	47	Indoor rectangular fields	2	3
A(nother) regional recreation facility	22	6	Outdoor tennis	2	1
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	18	7	More facilities/amenities	2	3
Indoor ice rink	14	9	Outdoor pool	2	1
An indoor swimming pool	14	8	Arts centres or arts studios	2	2
A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	7	3	Indoor tennis	2	1
Outdoor ice rinks	6	4	Public golf course/golf facility	2	1
A community centre	6	3	Playgrounds/tot lots	1	1
Pathways	5	5	Gathering places for community residents	1	2
Gymnasium	5	3	A public library branch	1	2
Other	5	4	Squash/racquetball	1	1
Aquatic/fitness Centre	5	2	Skateboard park	1	1
Parks	3	5	Dance studios	1	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	3	2	Outdoor ball diamonds	1	1
Multi-purpose room	3	2	Classrooms	1	1
Performance theatres or stages	3	1	Running track/indoor/outdoor	1	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 11 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
- Similar levels of perceived involvement in recreation and leisure activities, and higher levels of actual involvement in a number of activities
- Lower than average levels of satisfaction with various dimensions of recreation service provision.
- Significant desire for an additional large recreation facility.

While no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive, the findings clearly suggest that the regional recreation centre being planned in Calgary's Northwest will benefit many Area 11 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 11 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 newer communities such as those in Area 11 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 11, 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.

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 11

Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 11 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	%
In community	41	In community	70	YMCA- Crow foot	27	Crow foot	78	In community	98	YMCA- Crow foot	32
Bow ness Park	39	Bow River Pathway	12	Shouldice Pool	13	Nose Hill	13	Don't know	1	Other	22
Edworthy Park	6	Bow ness Park	12	Westside Recreation Centre	9	Bow ness	4	Other	1	Westside Recreation	5
Other	5	Other	3	VRRRI Recreation Centre	8	Dow ntow n/Central/WR Castell	3	Total	100	U of C	5
Nose Hill Park	4	Nosehill Park	2	Sir Winston Churchill Aquatic and Fitness Centre	7	Signal Hill/Westhills	1			Private Home Gym	5
Total	95	Total	99	Total	64	Total	99				
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	%
Community Centres	73	Jubilee Auditorium	21	Community	86	U of C- Olympic Oval	20	Community centres	32	In community/centre	80
Other	21	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	15	Other	5	Other	17	YMCA- Crow foot	25	Park/Lake	13
Parks	5	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	14	Don't know	3	Bow ness Community Centre	14	Other	14	Other	2
Retail locations	2	Other	14	School	3	Crow child Tw in Arenas	12	U of C	6	Don't know	2
Churches-Misc	1	Stage West	9	Glenmore Athletic Park	1	YMCA- Crow foot Arena	12	Schools	4	Out of City	2
Total	102	Total	73	Total	98	Total	75	Total	81	Total	99
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	93	Other	25	Community Centres	53	Glenbow Museum	19	Calgary West Soccer Centre	71	In community	69
Shouldice Park	5	YMCA- Crow foot	25	Other	20	Other	13	Other	14	Other	26
Jaycee slow-pitch park	1	U of C	20	YMCA- Crow foot	11	Private Facility/Studio	11	Don't know	7	Don't know	6
Don't know	0	U of C- Olympic Oval	14	U of C	4	Dow ntow n- Unspecified	10	Calgary NE Sports Facility	3		
School (not post secondary)	0	Talisman Centre	6	Don't know /Refused	3	Don't know /Refused	8	U of C	3		
Total	99	Total	90	Total	91	Total	61	Total	98		101
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	46	Other	34	Don't know	23	Other	47	Don't know	19		
U of C	13	Private Facility/Studio	28	Winter Club	14	Other community centres	39	U of C	16		
Mount Royal College	11	Other Community Centres	20	Glencoe Club	14	U of C	5	Other	14		
Schools	8	Don't know /Refused	6	Riverside Club	14	SAIT	3	World Health Club	14		
SAIT	8	U of C	3	Other	9	Cardel Place	3	YMCA- Eau Claire	11		
Total	86	Total	91	Total	74	Total	97	Total	74		