

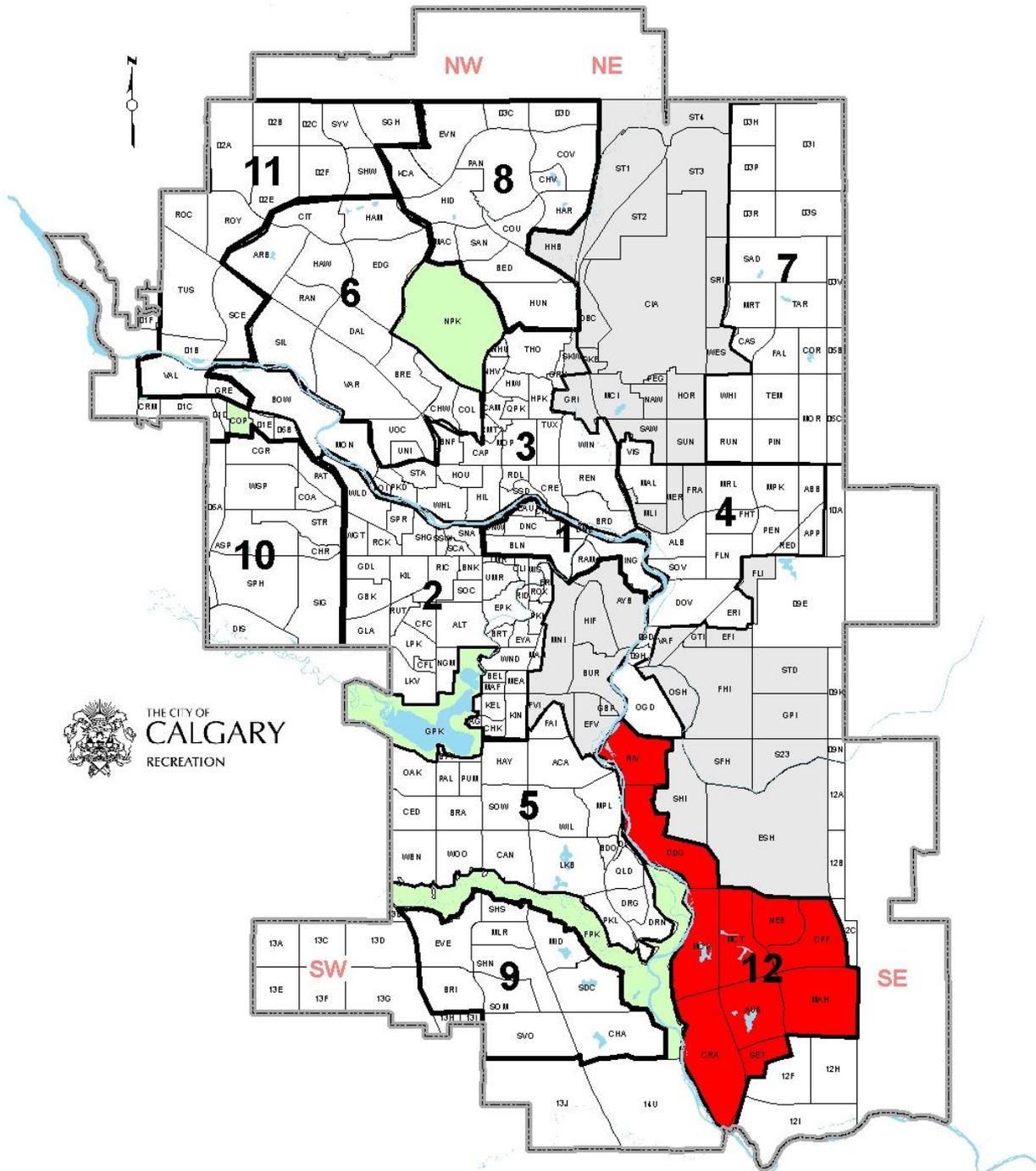
---

**Recreation Amenities**

**Gap Analysis**

---

# Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12



## **Contents**

Introduction .....	1
About This Report .....	1
Area 12 .....	2
Geodemographics.....	3
Community Development .....	3
Age .....	4
Family Life Stage .....	4
Diversity .....	5
Household Income .....	6
Overall Perceptions of Recreation and Leisure Opportunities .....	7
Level of Involvement in Recreation and Leisure .....	9
Recreation and Leisure Activities.....	10
Barriers to Recreation and Leisure Involvement .....	11
Latent Demand for Recreation and Leisure .....	14
Recreation and Leisure Amenity Use.....	15
Perceived Recreation and Leisure Amenity Gaps.....	16
Summary and Conclusion.....	17
Appendix A .....	18

## 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](#)<sup>1</sup>, and the Calgary Sport Council, [A 10 Year Strategy for Sport Facility Development and Enhancement](#)<sup>2</sup>.

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](#)<sup>3</sup>. 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.

---

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

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.calgarysportcouncil.ca/images/stories/File/homepage/final\\_report\\_sport\\_facility\\_strategic\\_plan\\_may\\_23\\_2008.pdf](http://www.calgarysportcouncil.ca/images/stories/File/homepage/final_report_sport_facility_strategic_plan_may_23_2008.pdf)

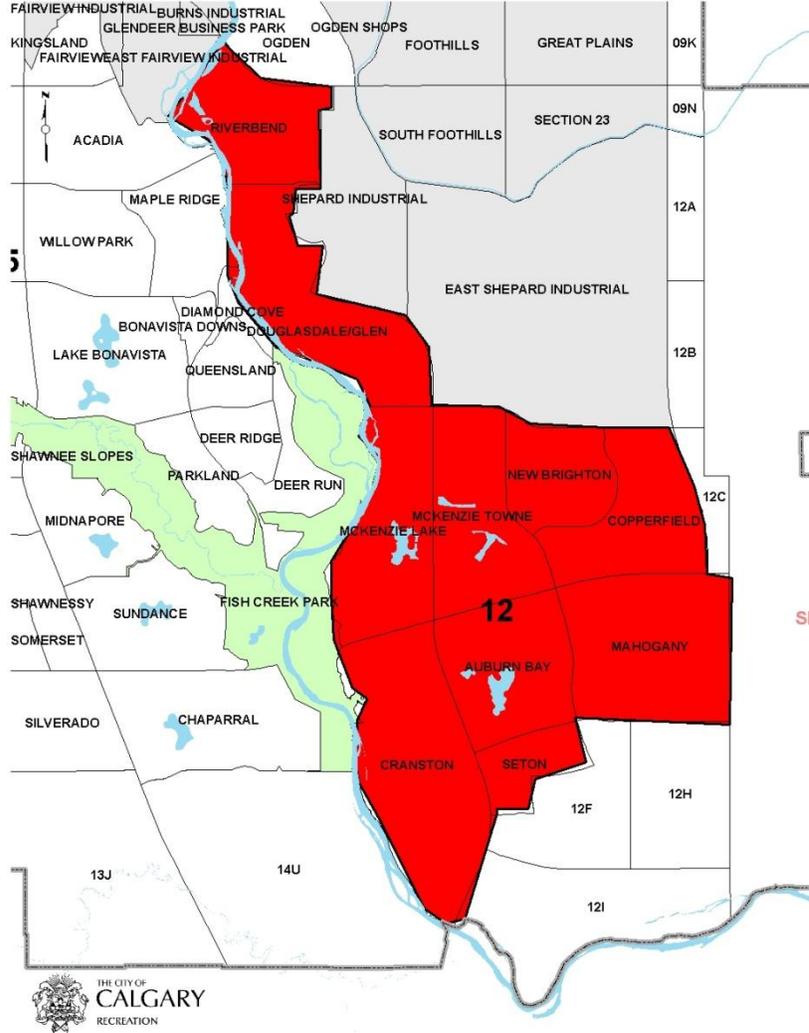
<sup>3</sup> [http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning\\_and\\_policy/gap\\_analysis\\_report.pdf](http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf)

# Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12

## Area 12

Area 12 is located in the deep Southeast region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Auburn Bay
- Copperfield
- Cranston
- Douglasdale/Glen
- McKenzie Lake
- McKenzie Towne
- Mahogany
- New Brighton
- Riverbend
- Seton



A total of 500 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 68,693<sup>4</sup>, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.37%, 19 times out of 20.

<sup>4</sup> 2006 Federal Census

## Geodemographics

### Community Development

Development in Area 12 began in the 1980s, and will continue over the next 15 - 20 years.

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 12 is among the fastest growing regions of Calgary; between 2002 and 2008, the population has increased by 26,636 residents, or 63.3%.**

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 12. 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.

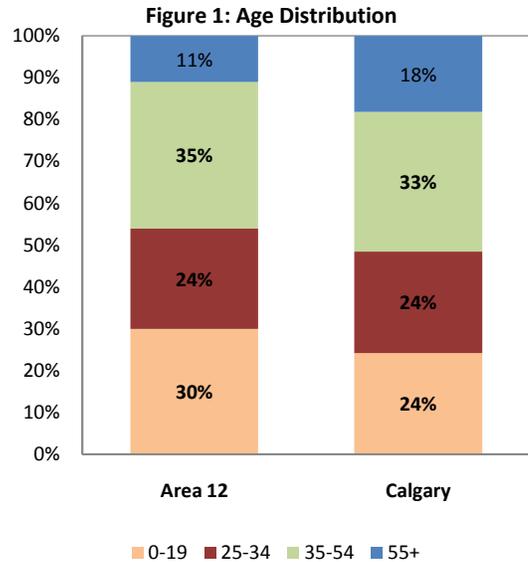
Area 12 is made up of some of the newest communities on Calgary's periphery, and will continue to experience considerable population growth over the short and long term. This will place pressure on the limited existing infrastructure and may increase demand for new recreation and leisure amenities. It 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 12, 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 12.

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 12 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

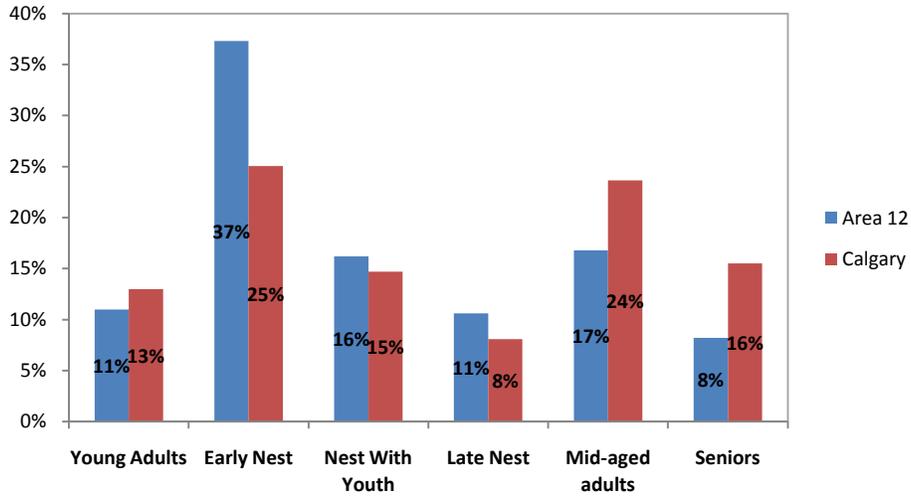
Family life stage is based on the concept that most families progress through a number of distinct phases over time, particularly with respect to household composition (both ages of household members and identified categories of household). RAGA divided survey respondents into six family life stages:

- **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.

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12

Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 12 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, **nearly one in four households in Area 12 are Early Nest households, while another 17% are Mid Aged Adult households.** This suggests that the recreation and leisure needs and preferences in Area 12 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.

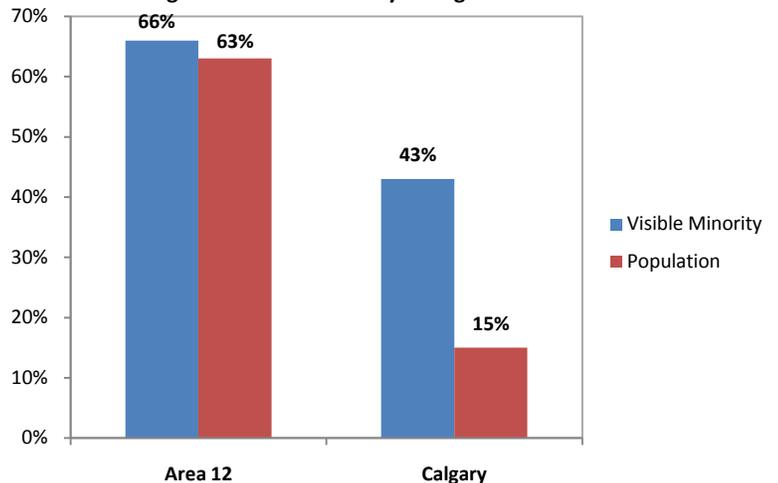
**Figure 2: Family Life Stage**



### 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 12, the visible minority population has increased at an equally rapid rate as the overall population between 2002 and 2008.** This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 12 have changed considerably and quickly.

**Figure 3: Visible Minority Change 2002-2008**



## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12

Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. However, **Area 12 is somewhat different in terms of ethnic origins of residents to Calgary as a whole. There is a higher concentration of residents from the British Isles, Eastern and Western European countries, and French and Other North American Origins. In contrast, there are proportionally fewer residents from East, Southeast and South Asian countries.**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 12	Calgary	Origin	Area 12	Calgary
British Isles origins	53	45	South Asian origins	3	6
Western European origins	26	21	Caribbean origins	1	1
Other North American origins	25	20	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
Eastern European origins	20	16	African origins	1	2
French origins	13	10	Arab origins	1	2
Northern European origins	9	8	West Asian origins	0	1
East and Southeast Asian origins	8	13	Oceania origins	0	0
Southern European origins	7	7			
Aboriginal origins	4	4			

≤3% of Calgary Average

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

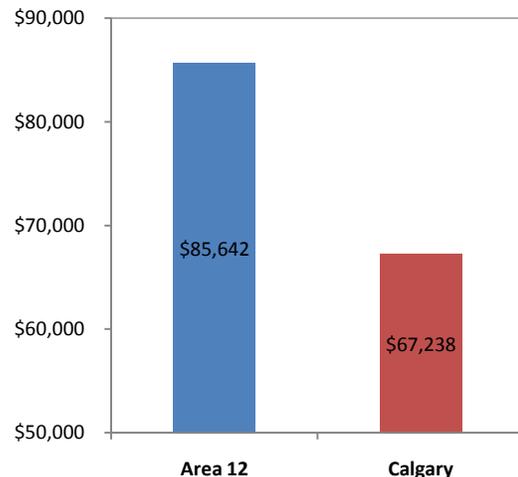
Increasing diversification has the potential to impact recreation amenity provision to the extent that it introduces or emphasizes different and/or specialized recreation needs and preferences, as well as distinct cultural, language and community traditions.

### Household Income

RAGA found that household income levels among the various Study Areas differ considerably.

**Median annual household incomes in Area 12 are higher by an average of more than \$23,000 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 12 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 12 and from all Calgarians who were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with each.

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

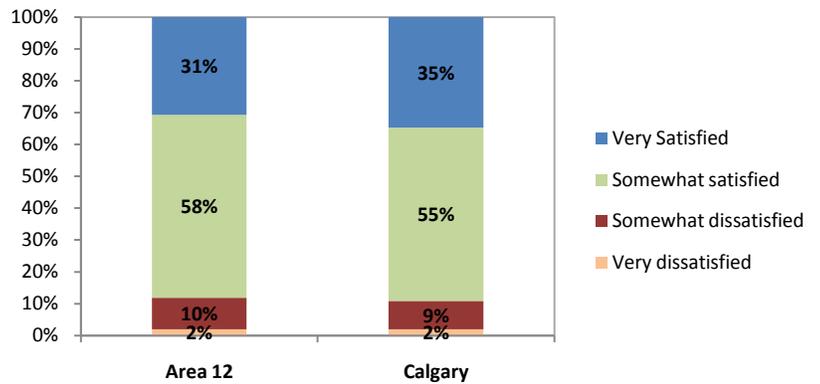
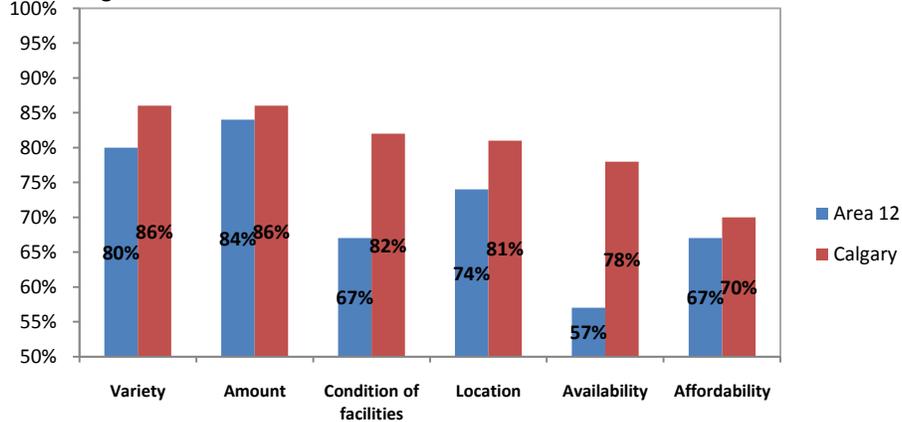


Figure 6: Satisfaction with Dimensions of Recreation and Leisure



**Survey results indicate that while Area 12 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 two thirds of Area 12 respondents indicated that they were somewhat or very satisfied with the condition of recreation facilities (67%), compared to 82% in Calgary as a whole. In addition, just 57% were satisfied with the availability of recreation facilities, compared with 78% in Calgary as a whole.

Given that Area 12 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 Southeast will provide a host of added recreation and leisure opportunities to Area 12 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 12. 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 12 respondents (77%) 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 12 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 12 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, Young Adult households in Area 12 less often indicated being involved in recreation and leisure (-5%) than in Calgary as a whole.

Figure 7: Perceived Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

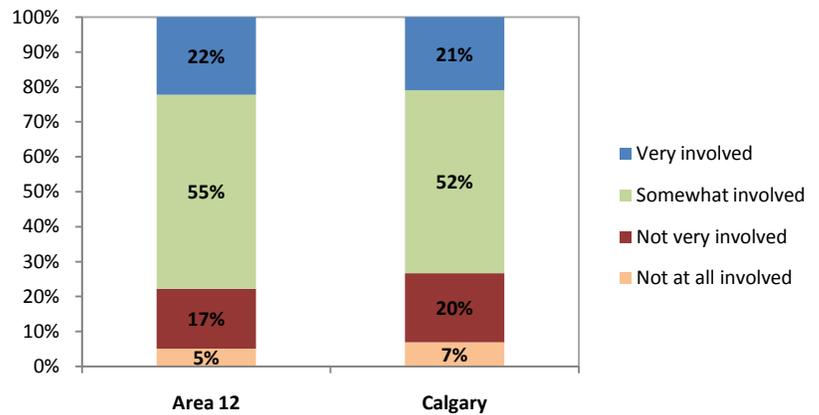
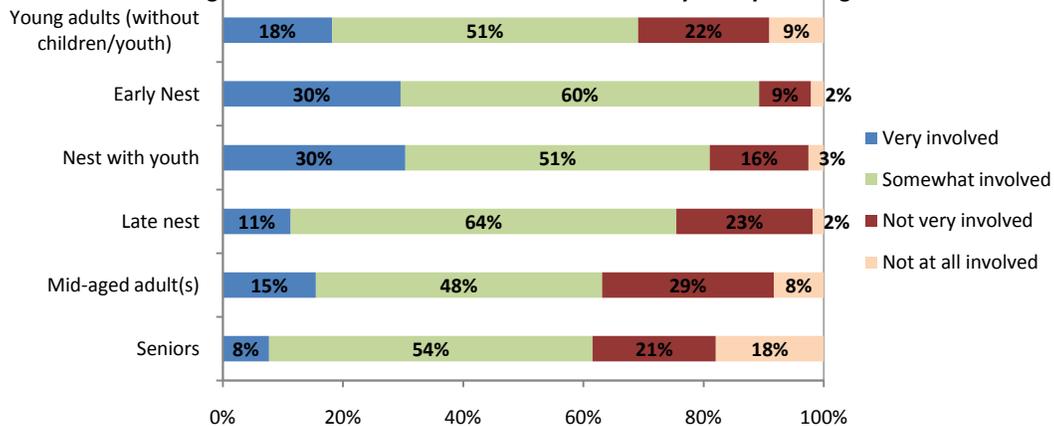


Figure 8: Involvement in Recreation and Leisure by Family Life Stage



## **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 12 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 involvement in recreation and leisure activities reported by residents of Area 12 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.

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12

**Table 2: Top 30 Most Common Activities by Age Group (Area 12)**

Under 13 (n=215)		13-19 (n=113)		20-44 (n=327)		45-64 (n=252)		65+ (n=51)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - for pleasure	60	Swimming - for pleasure	41	Swimming - for pleasure	46	Walking for pleasure	70	Walking for pleasure	94
Swimming - lessons	55	Cycling - for pleasure	35	Fitness training - workout/gym	43	Fitness training - workout/gym	42	Golf	33
Soccer - Outdoor	47	Soccer - Indoor	28	Walking for pleasure	41	Golf	40	Books/reading	22
Cycling - for pleasure	27	Soccer - Outdoor	27	Golf	25	Swimming - for pleasure	31	Fitness training - workout/gym	20
Going to the park/playground	18	Hockey - Ice	20	Cycling - for pleasure	24	Cycling - for pleasure	25	Cycling - for pleasure	20
Skating for pleasure/fun	18	Walking for pleasure	17	Hockey - Ice	18	Hiking	16	Gardening	18
Soccer - Indoor	17	Fitness training - workout/gym	16	Running	14	Running	14	Swimming - for pleasure	12
Hockey - Ice	15	Basketball	15	Books/reading	13	Books/reading	13	Church	12
Music - play an instrument	14	Golf	15	Hiking	12	Camping	10	Television - watching	10
Baseball	14	Music - play an instrument	14	Skating for pleasure/fun	12	Skating for pleasure/fun	10	Cards/playing	10
Walking for pleasure	13	Running	12	Camping	12	Curling	10	Volunteering	10
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	12	Football	12	Baseball	11	Skiing - Alpine	8	Library	6
Martial arts	12	Swimming - lessons	10	Visiting friends/relatives	10	Hockey - Ice	8	Attend live theatre (not movies)	4
Books/reading	9	Snowboarding	10	Soccer - Outdoor	9	Visiting friends/relatives	7	Camping	4
Basketball	9	Camping	10	Skiing - Alpine	8	Yoga	7	Curling	4
Visiting friends/relatives	8	Hiking	9	Park	7	Gardening	6	Yoga	4
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	8	Badminton	9	Yoga	7	Attend live theatre (not movies)	6	Visiting friends/relatives	2
Skiing - Alpine	7	Computer - games	8	Soccer - Indoor	7	Traveling	6	Traveling	2
Camping	7	Visiting friends/relatives	8	Attend movies	6	Fishing	6	Craft or hobby	2
Hiking	7	Skiing - Alpine	7	Television - watching	6	Attend music concert	5	Park	2
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	7	Skateboarding	7	Tennis	5	Attend a sport event (spectator)	5	Board games/puzzles	2
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	7	Skating for pleasure/fun	6	Gardening	5	Attend movies	4	Aquasize	2
Going to the library	6	Baseball	5	Computer - games	4	Library	4	Bowling - 5/10 pin	2
Craft or hobby	6	Television - watching	5	Library	3	Television - watching	4	Hiking	0
Camp (summer/day camp)	6	Attend movies	4	Basketball	3	Park	4	Attend music concert	0
Dancing - Other - Participant	5	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	4	Attend live theatre (not movies)	3	Volunteering	4	Skiing - Alpine	0
Television - watching	5	Dancing - Other - Participant	4	Attend music concert	2	Tennis	3	Dancing - Other - Participant	0
Golf	5	Tennis	4	Fishing	2	Dancing - Other - Participant	3	Attend movies	0
Computer - games	4	Books/reading	2	Craft or hobby	2	Craft or hobby	2	Knitting/sewing	0
Zoo	2	Going to the library	0	Snowboarding	1	Skiing - Nordic	2	Attend a sport event (spectator)	0

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤ 3% of Calgary Average

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12

---

**In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 12 participate in a number of recreation activities in larger proportions than in Calgary as a whole, and others in smaller proportions. Further, data show that Area 12 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 12 as it was for all Study Areas, though swimming lessons were indicated by 5% fewer residents in Area 12 than in Calgary as a whole. Other notable differences between Area 12 and Calgary as a whole include baseball (+6%), indoor soccer (+5%), going to the park (-11%) and alpine skiing (-5%).

Swimming for pleasure and fitness training were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 12, and were reported by 5% more and 5% fewer respondents of this cohort, respectively, than in Calgary as a whole. Golf was also more common in Area 12 (+6%), while other activities, including reading (-9%) fitness training (-7%) and alpine skiing (-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 12, and was reported at a similar rate as in Calgary as a whole. Golf (+9%), ice hockey (+6%) and baseball (+6%) were also more common in Area 12, while a number of other activities were less common, including hiking (-5%) and going to the park (-5%).

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was most common and was prevalent in all Areas, though Area 12 residents reported it at a rate 4% higher than in Calgary as a whole. Golf (+14%), fitness training (+8%) and curling (+6%) were also more common among Area 12 residents of this cohort. In contrast, reading (-4%), visiting friends and relatives (-4%) and gardening (-4%) were less common in Area 12 than in Calgary as a whole.

Walking for pleasure was the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 12 as well as Calgary as a whole, though it was reported in much higher (+24%) proportions in Area 12. Other activities, including golf (+11%) and cycling for pleasure (10%) were considerably more common in Area 12, while visiting friends and relatives (-19%) and hiking (-10%), were reported by a lower proportion of Area 12 residents.

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 12 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. Golf does seem to be more common across a number of age cohorts, however.

## 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 49% of respondents from Area 12 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. Still, more than half of 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.

<b>Table 3: Barriers to participation in recreation activities (%)</b>		
	<b>Area 12</b>	<b>Calgary</b>
<b>Personal interest/situation</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>63</b>
Already participate as often as would like	49	51
Involved in other activities	8	9
Just lazy	3	2
No children/children grown up	1	0
Not interested	0	1
<b>Other priorities/time constraints</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>
No time	7	9
Work commitments	4	6
Family commitments	1	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	0	0
<b>Facility/Program Accessibility</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>
Too far away/inconvenient	8	4
Other	6	0
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Opportunities available too full/crowded	3	1
Prices/fees too high/too costly	2	3
Nothing organized/available	1	1
Opportunities available do not my schedule	0	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
<b>Social Isolation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
Cannot afford	3	3
Poor health/physically challenged	1	2
Age (too old)	0	1
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
<b>Other</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 12

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 12 households – no time and involved in other activities – are not easily remedied through enhancing infrastructure or services. Interestingly, a lower proportion of Area 12 residents identified other priorities/time constraint barriers, while a higher proportion identified accessibility barriers. With such low proportions of residents identifying specific barriers, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions, though the planned regional recreation facility in the Southeast, if easily accessible to Area 12, should improve program/facility accessibility for many Area 12 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 32% of respondents from Area 12, 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.

<b>Table 4: Recreation Activities of Interest (%)</b>					
<b>(Organized by Top 30 Most Common Activities)</b>					
	Area 12	Calgary		Area 12	Calgary
	(n= 501)	(n=6,024)		(n= 501)	(n=6,024)
Swimming - for pleasure	8	4	Parachuting	1	1
Fitness training - workout/gym	6	4	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Yoga	3	2	Hockey - Ice	1	1
Swimming - lessons	3	1	Golf	1	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	3	1	Running/jogging	1	1
Tennis	2	2	Badminton	1	1
Martial arts	2	2	Aquasize	1	1
Art class/program	2	2	Soccer - Outdoor	0	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	2	2	Rock climbing	0	1
Music - play an instrument	2	1	Craft or hobby	0	1
Attend educational courses	2	1	Hiking	0	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Baseball	0	1
Walking for pleasure	1	1	Curling	0	1
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1	Dancing - Ballroom	0	1
Skiing - Alpine	1	1	Courses	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 Southeast 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.

Table 5: Current Amenity Use (%)					
	Area 12 (n=501)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 12 (n=501)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	92	85	Gymnasiums	24	17
Pathways	87	78	Outdoor ice rinks	21	22
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	66	61	Outdoor Tennis courts	20	15
Public Libraries	64	67	Arts centres or arts studios	19	22
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	57	53	Indoor rectangular fields	18	19
Playgrounds or tot lots	44	37	Multi-purpose rooms	17	13
Neighbourhood gathering places	44	42	Classrooms	16	17
Indoor ice rinks	42	30	Dance studios	15	19
Performance theatres or stages	41	44	Running Track	12	16
Outdoor rectangular fields	37	32	Meeting rooms	7	8
Gymnasiums	35	30	Outdoor ball diamonds	3	2
Outdoor ice rinks	34	29	Squash/Racquetball courts	2	4

Overall, Area 12 residents use many 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. Area 12 residents report using indoor ice and playgrounds/tot lots in greater proportions, and use dance studios and running tracks in lower proportions than do Calgarians as a whole.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 12 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 12 (17%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is much lower than for the city as a whole (47%). A regional recreation facility was identified by 12% of residents, and a leisure centre by another 29%. Clearly, Area 12 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 Southeast.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)					
	Area 12 (n=501)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 12 (n=501)	Calgary (n=6,023)
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	29	7	Arts centres or arts studios	4	2
An indoor swimming pool	25	8	Pathways	3	5
Indoor ice rink	23	9	Outdoor rectangular fields	3	2
Nothing	17	47	Performance theatres or stages	2	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	12	6	Outdoor tennis	2	1
A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	9	3	Indoor tennis	2	1
A public library branch	9	2	Squash/racquetball	2	1
Outdoor ice rinks	7	4	Outdoor ball diamonds	2	1
Aquatic/fitness Centre	7	2	Outdoor pool	1	1
More facilities/amenities	7	3	Public golf course/golf facility	1	1
A community centre	6	3	Playgrounds/tot lots	1	1
Other	6	4	Gathering places for community residents	1	2
Parks	6	5	Dance studios	1	1
Indoor rectangular fields	5	3	Classrooms	1	1
Gymnasium	4	3	Running track/indoor/outdoor	1	1
Multi-purpose room	4	2	Skateboard park	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 12 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 facility being planned in Calgary's Southeast will benefit many Area 12 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 12 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 12, 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 12, 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 12

### Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 12 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	%
Fish Creek Provincial Park	45	In community	53	Southland Leisure Centre	37	Fish Creek	58	In community	97	Other	15
In community	40	Fish Creek Provincial Park	36	Family Leisure Centre	24	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	25	Other	2	Family Leisure Centre	13
Carburn Park	12	Bow River Pathway	9	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	13	Glenmore Square	15	Don't know	0	Good Life Fitness	12
Other	8	Carburn Park	7	Acadia Aquatic and Fitness Centre	8	Southwood	5	Total	99	Gold's Gym	9
Prince's Island Park	2	Other	3	Talisman Centre	5	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	3			Southland Leisure Centre	8
Total	107	Total	108	Total	87	Total	106				
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	54	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	21	Community	70	Family Leisure Centre	20	Community centres	21	In community/centre	91
Community Centres	36	Jubilee Auditorium	17	Other	13	Other	16	Other	20	Park/Lake	4
Parks	6	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	17	School	7	South of Fish Creek	13	Southland Leisure Centre	12	Other	2
Don't know	5	Other	17	Don't know	3	Rinks throughout the city	12	South of Fish Creek/YMCA Shawnessy	11	Don't know	1
Churches-Misc	4	Stage West	10	Shouldice Athletic Park	3	Don't know/Refused	11	Family Leisure Centre	11	Out of City	1
Total	105	Total	82	Total	96	Total	72	Total	75	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	78	Other	29	Community Centres	37	Private Facility/Studio	25	Calgary Soccer Centre	63	In community	86
Don't know	5	Talisman Centre	27	Other	18	Other	15	Other	14	Other	9
School (not post secondary)	5	Family Leisure Centre	8	Don't know/Refused	13	Glenbow Museum	11	Don't know	10	Don't know	5
Shouldice Park	3	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	8	Family Leisure Centre	9	Don't know/Refused	11	U of C	1		
Jaycee slow-pitch park	3	YMCA (no specific facility)	6	Southland Leisure Centre	8	Community Centres	11	Mount Royal College	1		
Total	94	Total	78	Total	85	Total	73	Total	89		100
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	32	Private Facility/Studio	34	Other	23	Other	52	Other	23		
Schools	22	Other	33	Southland Leisure Centre	23	Other community centres	32	Southland Leisure Centre	23		
Don't know	20	Other Community Centres	12	Rico Tennis Academy	23	Don't know	8	Don't know	13		
Mount Royal College	10	Don't know/Refused	11	Don't know	15	Churches	7	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	13		
SAIT	9	Family Leisure Centre	4	Mount Royal College	8	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	3	U of C	8		
Total	93	Total	94	Total	92	Total	102	Total	80		