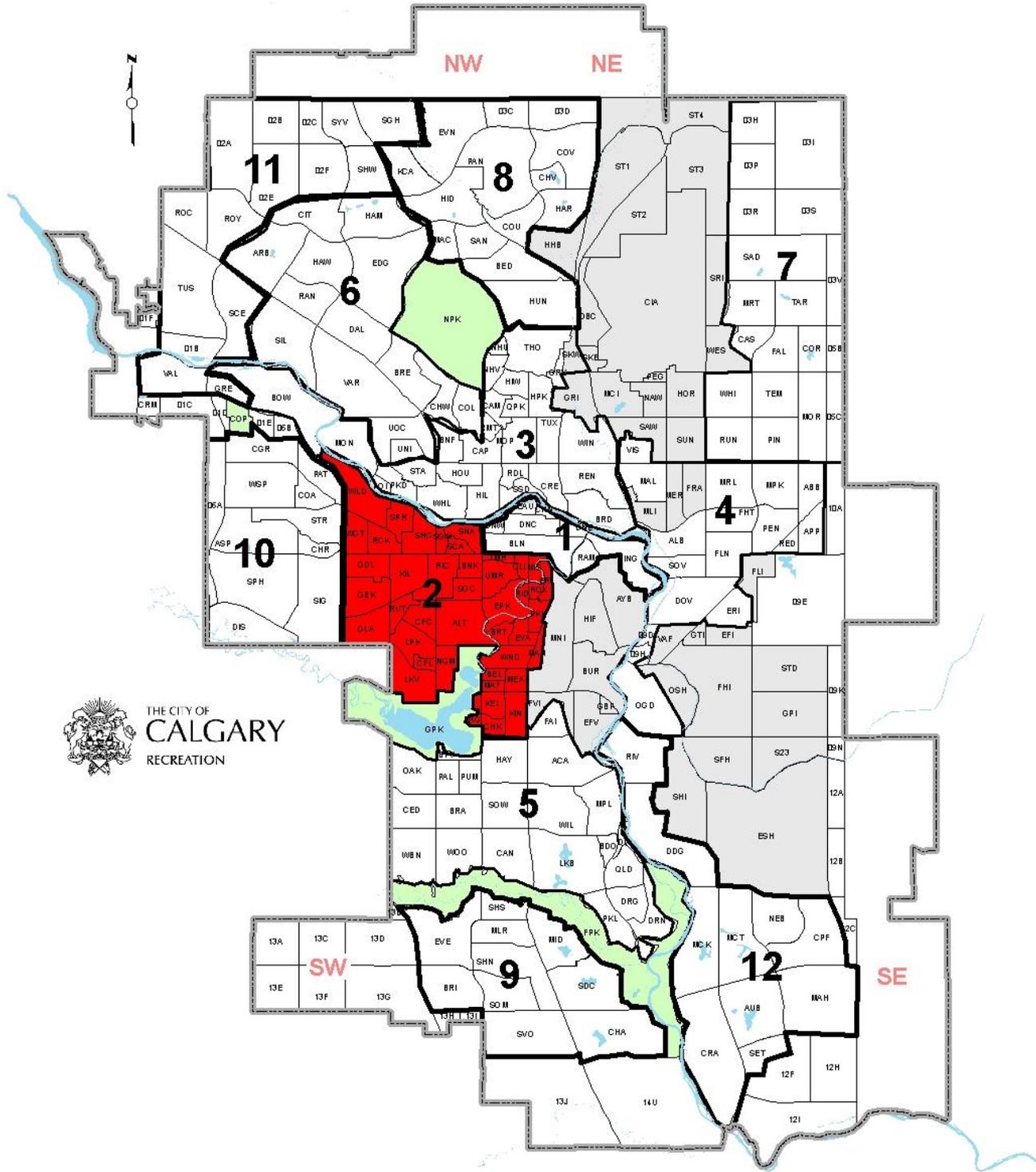

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 2



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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) 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

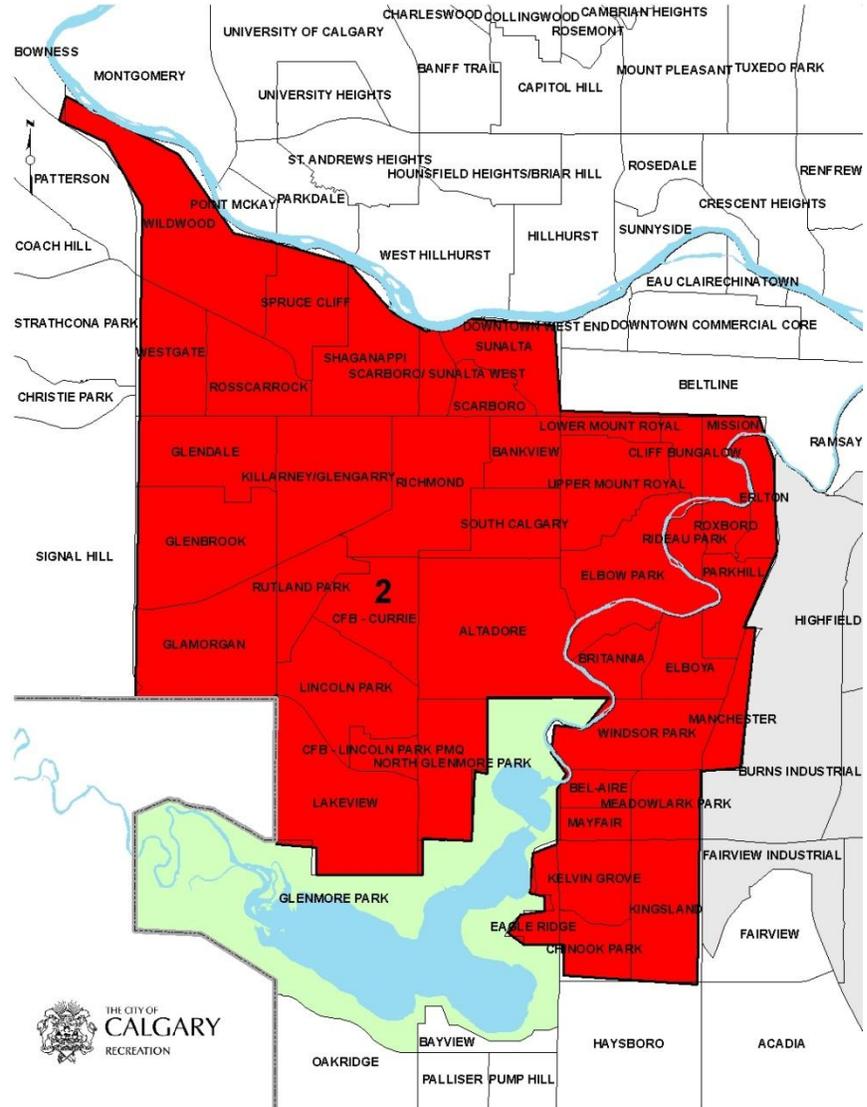
³ http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 2

Area 2

Area 2 is located in the inner west region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Altadore
- Bel-Aire
- Britannia
- Bankview
- CFB-Currie
- Chinook Park
- Eagle Ridge
- Elbow Park
- Erlton
- Elboya
- Glamorgan
- Glenbrook
- Glendale Meadows
- Kelvin Grove
- Kingsland
- Lakeview
- Lincoln Park-CFB
- Lower Mount Royal
- Mayfair
- Manchester
- Meadowland Park
- Mission
- North Glenmore Park
- Parkhill
- Rideau Park
- Rosscarrock
- Roxboro
- Rutland Park
- Scarboro
- Scarboro/Sunalta West
- Shaganappi
- South Calgary
- Spruce Cliff
- Sunalta
- Upper Mount Royal
- Westgate



- Wildwood
- Cliff Bungalow
- Killarney
- Richmond
- Valleyfield Industrial Park

A total of 500 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 112,727⁴, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.37%, 19 times out of 20.

⁴ 2006 Federal Census

Geodemographics

Community Development

Development in Area 2 began early in the 20th Century, and continued until the mid-1950s.

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 2, population growth has been fairly modest in recent years; between 2002 and 2008, the population increased by 2,484 residents, or 2.3%.**

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 that those areas which have experienced population decline may in fact experience further decline as a reflection of typical community lifecycle patterns. 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 model will have important implications for recreation amenity planning in Area 2. 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.

As a result, communities in Area 2 may be in a situation of vying for limited resources when short term figures indicate relatively low population growth. However, Area 2 is comprised of both inner city and developed communities, and despite little recent population growth, may experience both short and longer-term densification. 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.

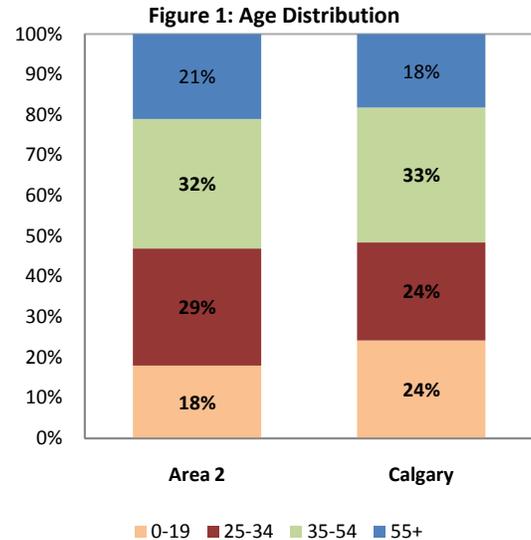
Population growth at the city level and community lifecycles are important and tangible considerations for recreation service planning and delivery in Calgary. Other considerations, such as the aging and growing diversity of the population will help shape the expectations that Calgarians have for recreation 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 2, there is a slightly greater proportion of residents between 25 and 34, and over 55, as compared to Calgary as a whole. This suggests a higher than average composition of young adults and retirees in Area 2.

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.

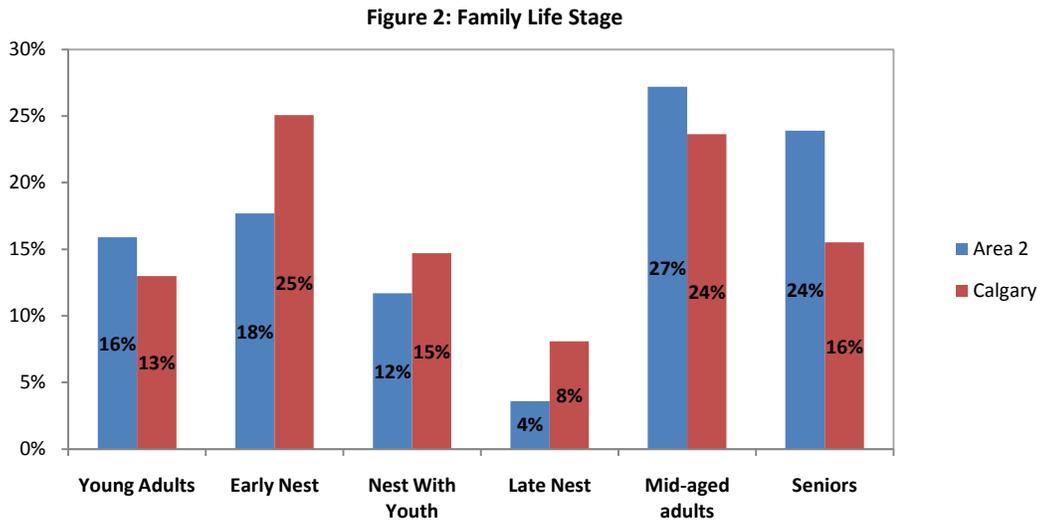
Data collected for RAGA suggests that these older residents are likely to be more involved in recreation and leisure pursuits compared to previous generations of seniors. In particular, they will likely want to be both physically and mentally active to ensure that they maintain a quality of life that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

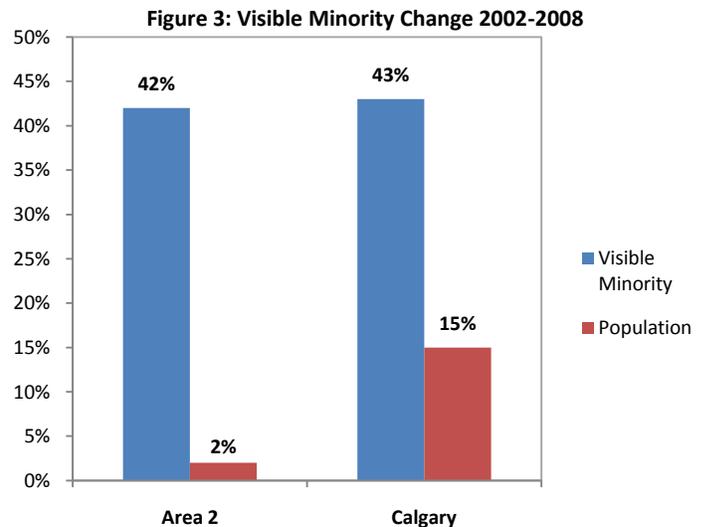
- **Young adults (without children/youth)** – adults are primarily under 45 years of age, no children or youth are present;
- **Early nest** – children/youth are primarily under 13 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Nest with youth** – children/youth are primarily between 13 and 19 years of age, adults 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 2 residents are also somewhat different than for Calgary as a whole. Whereas one-quarter of Calgary’s population is in early nest households, less than two in ten residents of Area 2 are in this cohort. However, almost one quarter of Area 2 residents are seniors, compared to just 16% across Calgary. Notably, Area 2 has a lower proportion of households with children. This suggests that trends in recreation and leisure associated with an aging population, particularly as reflected in the composition of families, may be noticeable in Area 2 prior to other areas in Calgary.

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 the population of Calgarians 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 2, while the overall population grew by just 2%, the visible minority population increased by 42% between 2002 and 2008.** This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 2 have changed considerably despite slow population growth.



Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 2

Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. However, **Area 2 is very similar in terms of ethnic origins of residents to Calgary as a whole, with a couple of exceptions. There is a somewhat higher concentration of residents from the British Isles, and lower proportions of residents from East, Southeast and South Asia.**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 2	Calgary	Origin	Area 2	Calgary
British Isles origins	54	45	African origins	2	2
Western European origins	22	21	South Asian origins	2	6
Other North American origins	21	20	Caribbean origins	1	1
Eastern European origins	17	16	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
French origins	11	10	Arab origins	1	2
Northern European origins	9	8	West Asian origins	0	1
Southern European origins	7	7	Oceania origins	0	0
East and Southeast Asian origins	7	13			
Aboriginal origins	4	4			

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

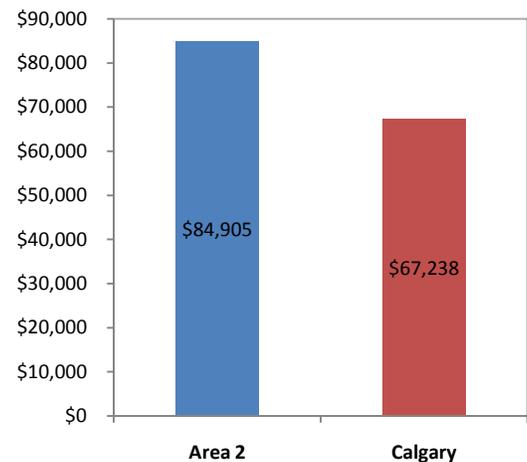
≤3% of Calgary Average

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 the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in the city is a concern for many Calgarians, particularly those with lower household incomes, and impacts the degree to which they consider themselves involved in recreation and leisure activities. Further, household income levels among the various Study Areas differ considerably. **Median annual household incomes in Area 2 are substantially higher – by an average of more than \$17,500 - than for the city as a whole.**

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 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 2 were more likely to state that they were 'very 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 2 and from all Calgarians who were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with each.

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

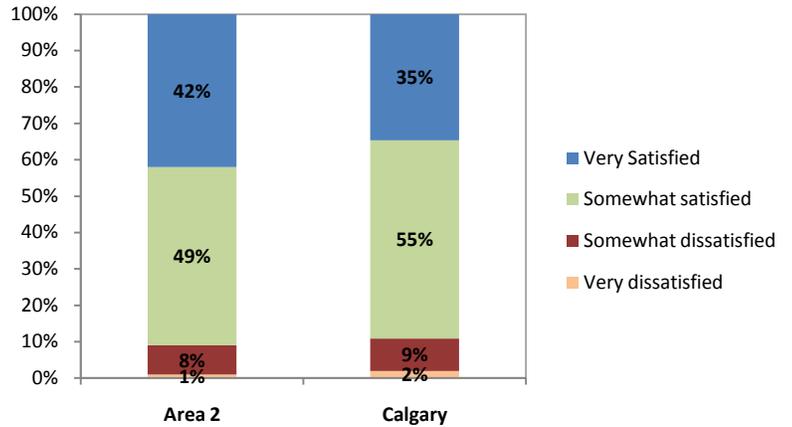
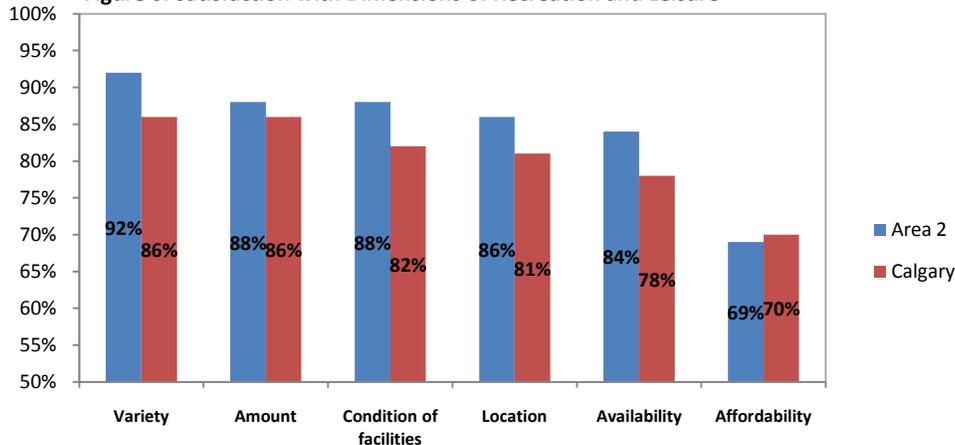


Figure 6: Satisfaction with Dimensions of Recreation and Leisure



Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 2

Survey results indicate that Calgarians are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others, and that Area 2 residents tend to give higher satisfaction ratings compared to Calgary as a whole. More than nine in ten survey respondents indicated that they were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the variety of recreation and leisure opportunities; nearly nine in ten were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the amount of recreation available (88%) and with the condition of facilities (88%). A similar level of satisfaction rating was given to the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities. In fact, on most dimensions, residents of Area 2 gave higher satisfaction ratings than residents of Calgary 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 2. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents with lower household incomes are significantly less likely to be satisfied with the 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.

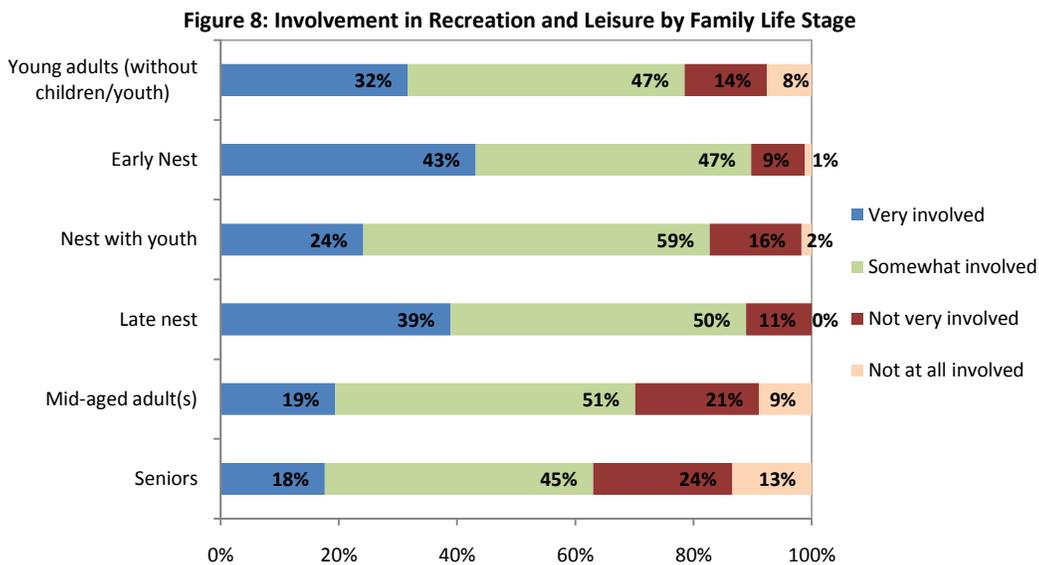
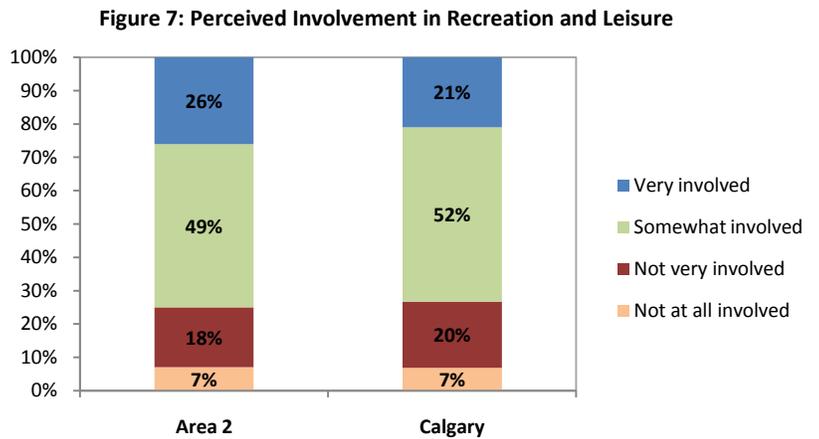
Interestingly, even with substantially higher average annual incomes, Area 2 residents rated affordability similarly to Calgarians as a whole. This suggests that demographic considerations, such as family life stage and the visible minority population may be influencing the how the affordability of recreation is perceived.

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 2 respondents (75%) indicated that they were 'somewhat involved' or 'very involved' in recreation and leisure as compared to Calgary as a whole (73%). This difference is seen entirely in the proportion who indicated that they were 'very involved'. This seems consistent with the higher satisfaction ratings given by Area 2 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 2 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages. Notably, mid-aged adult (+16%) and seniors' (+7%) households in Area 2 indicated being 'somewhat involved' or 'very involved' in recreation and leisure in greater

proportions than in Calgary as a whole. This is noteworthy given the higher proportion of these groups in Area 2 relative to other areas of the city; not only is there a higher concentration of older Calgarians in these communities, they also tend to be more involved in recreation and leisure pursuits.



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 2 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 2 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 2

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

Under 13 (n=101)		13-19 (n=76)		20-44 (n=222)		45-64 (n=249)		65+ (n=139)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - for pleasure	70	Swimming - for pleasure	58	Swimming - for pleasure	56	Walking for pleasure	69	Walking for pleasure	63
Swimming - lessons	67	Cycling - for pleasure	36	Cycling - for pleasure	45	Cycling - for pleasure	50	Books/reading	31
Soccer - Outdoor	45	Skiing - Alpine	36	Walking for pleasure	37	Swimming - for pleasure	47	Fitness training - workout/gym	27
Cycling - for pleasure	44	Hiking	28	Fitness training - workout/gym	36	Fitness training - workout/gym	44	Visiting friends/relatives	24
Going to the park/playground	33	Soccer - Outdoor	26	Hiking	30	Golf	32	Golf	22
Skating for pleasure/fun	30	Hockey - Ice	24	Skiing - Alpine	27	Hiking	30	Swimming - for pleasure	17
Skiing - Alpine	30	Soccer - Indoor	21	Running	19	Skiing - Alpine	26	Cycling - for pleasure	15
Going to the library	20	Books/reading	18	Golf	18	Books/reading	16	Hiking	13
Hockey - Ice	18	Running	17	Books/reading	18	Running	15	Gardening	12
Walking for pleasure	18	Music - play an instrument	16	Park	16	Tennis	14	Television - watching	11
Soccer - Indoor	17	Fitness training - workout/gym	14	Visiting friends/relatives	14	Library	13	Attend music concert	11
Hiking	16	Snowboarding	14	Yoga	12	Skiing - Nordic	13	Library	10
Music - play an instrument	15	Walking for pleasure	12	Library	12	Yoga	12	Board games/puzzles	10
Dancing - Other - Participant	12	Dancing - Other - Participant	11	Hockey - Ice	11	Volunteering	11	Attend live theatre (not movies)	9
Camping	11	Basketball	9	Camping	11	Attend live theatre (not movies)	10	Traveling	7
Books/reading	10	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Skating for pleasure/fun	10	Visiting friends/relatives	8	Craft or hobby	7
Baseball	10	Camping	9	Attend live theatre (not movies)	10	Gardening	8	Volunteering	7
Camp (summer/day camp)	10	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	9	Attend music concert	9	Hockey - Ice	8	Church	7
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	9	Tennis	9	Tennis	8	Attend movies	6	Attend movies	7
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	7	Skateboarding	9	Soccer - Outdoor	7	Skating for pleasure/fun	6	Knitting/sewing	7
Martial arts	7	Swimming - lessons	8	Attend movies	7	Attend music concert	6	Cards/playing	6
Craft or hobby	7	Football	5	Gardening	5	Craft or hobby	6	Park	6
Zoo	7	Skating for pleasure/fun	5	Snowboarding	5	Camping	5	Aquasize	6
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	5	Going to the library	5	Television - watching	4	Fishing	4	Curling	5
Television - watching	3	Attend movies	4	Soccer - Indoor	4	Dancing - Other - Participant	4	Yoga	5
Visiting friends/relatives	3	Badminton	3	Fishing	4	Attend a sport event (spectator)	4	Skiing - Alpine	4
Golf	3	Computer - games	1	Craft or hobby	3	Television - watching	3	Camping	1
Computer - games	2	Golf	1	Basketball	2	Traveling	3	Bowling - 5/10 pin	1
Basketball	1	Baseball	1	Baseball	1	Park	3	Dancing - Other - Participant	1
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	1	Television - watching	1	Computer - games	1	Curling	3	Attend a sport event (spectator)	1

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤3% of Calgary Average

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 2

In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 2 participate in many recreation activities to a greater extent than in Calgary as a whole. Further, data show that Area 2 residents participate in a greater 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 2 as it was for all Study Areas. In fact, swimming for pleasure was indicated by 10% more residents in Area 2 than in Calgary as a whole. Other notable differences between Area 2 and Calgary as a whole include alpine skiing (+18%) and cycling for pleasure (+16%). In contrast, rhythmic gymnastics was indicated by 7% fewer Area 2 residents, and computer games by 5% fewer than in Calgary as a whole.

Swimming and cycling for pleasure were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 2, and swimming for pleasure was indicated by 16% more residents of this cohort than in Calgary as a whole. In addition, Area 2 residents were more likely to identify alpine skiing (+22%) and hiking (+18%) and less likely to engage in fitness training (-9%), basketball (-8%) and computer games (-8%) than in Calgary as a whole.

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming and cycling for pleasure were also the top rated activities, and were more common in Area 2 (+11% and +19%, respectively) than in Calgary as a whole. Additionally, alpine skiing (+16%) and hiking (+13%) were more common among Area 2 residents in this age group. Conversely, residents of Area 2 indicated playing baseball (-4%) at a somewhat lower rate than all Calgarians.

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was the most common activity, and was prevalent in all Study Areas. Table 2 shows that in general, Area 2 residents were more involved in a number of activities than residents of Calgary as a whole, including cycling for pleasure (+22%), swimming for pleasure (+16%) and alpine skiing (+15%).

Walking for pleasure was again the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Calgary as a whole, though to a somewhat lesser extent in Area 2 (-7%). Residents in Area 2 were more active in a number of activities, including fitness training (+10%), board games/puzzles (+6%) and cycling for pleasure (+5%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 2 participate are similar to those in other areas, and as shown, their level of involvement tends to be higher than in Calgary as a whole. In particular, involvement swimming and cycling for pleasure, as well as alpine seems to be more prevalent in this part 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 50% of respondents from Area 2 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. Still, fully 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.

Table 3: Barriers to participation in recreation activities (%)		
	Area 2	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	64	63
Already participate as often as would like	50	51
Involved in other activities	10	9
Just lazy	2	2
Not interested	1	1
No children/children grown up	1	0
Other priorities/time constraints	17	17
No time	10	9
Work commitments	6	6
Family commitments	0	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	1	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	14	14
Too far away/inconvenient	3	4
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Other	3	0
Prices/fees too high/too costly	2	3
Opportunities available too full/crowded	1	1
Opportunities available do not my schedule	1	1
Nothing organized/available	1	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
Social Isolation	6	6
Cannot afford	2	3
Poor health/physically challenged	2	2
Age (too old)	2	1
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know	1	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 2 households - too far away/inconvenient and that the right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/ amenities are not available - seem to closely mirror those elements of recreation with which residents were least satisfied (location and amount of recreation and leisure opportunities).

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 they do not currently participate. RAGA survey results indicated that 32% of respondents from Area 2, compared to 30% of respondents from all Study Areas combined were interested in one or more other recreation activities in which they do not currently participate. 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 2	Calgary		Area 2	Calgary
	(n= 500)	(n=6,024)		(n= 500)	(n=6,024)
Swimming - for pleasure	4	4	Parachuting	1	1
Yoga	4	2	Golf	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	3	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Fitness training - workout/gym	2	4	Hiking	1	1
Art class/program	2	2	Hockey - Ice	1	1
Music - play an instrument	2	1	Curling	1	1
Tennis	2	2	Courses	1	1
Martial arts	2	2	Attend educational courses	0	1
Craft or hobby	2	1	Walking for pleasure	0	1
Rock climbing	2	1	Aquasize	0	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	1	1	Dancing - Ballroom	0	1
Swimming - lessons	1	1	Running/jogging	0	1
Soccer - Outdoor	1	1	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	0	1
Skiing - Alpine	1	1	Badminton	0	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Baseball	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 yoga - both facility-based activities - were the most frequently mentioned activities of interest, and swimming for pleasure was reported by more Area 2 residents in most age cohorts than in Calgary as a whole.

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 2 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 2 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	89	85	Outdoor ice rinks	33	22
Pathways	83	78	Indoor ice rinks	32	32
Public Libraries	72	67	Arts centres or arts studios	31	19
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	63	61	Outdoor rectangular fields	30	19
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	59	53	Meeting rooms	21	17
Performance theatres or stages	57	44	Classrooms	21	16
Neighbourhood gathering places	54	42	Running Track	20	17
Playgrounds or tot lots	40	37	Outdoor ball diamonds	16	15
Multi-purpose rooms	36	22	Outdoor Tennis courts	16	13
Gymnasiums	35	30	Indoor rectangular fields	11	8
Outdoor ice rinks	35	29	Dance studios	8	4
Indoor ice rinks	33	30	Squash/Racquetball courts	3	2

As Table 5 shows, Area 2 residents use each of the listed recreation and leisure amenities at the same or higher levels than do Calgarians as a whole. 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. Interestingly, multi-purpose rooms (+14%) neighbourhood gathering places (+12%) are used by a greater proportion of Area 2 residents. Less surprisingly given their location, arts centres/studios were used by more Area 2 residents (+12%) than Calgarians as a whole.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 2 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 2 (54%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is a higher proportion than the city as a whole (47%). An indoor ice rink was the most frequently identified amenity needed in Area 2, beyond which no clear favourites emerged. This may indicate a general need for additional facilities or outdoor amenities, or may be a reflection of generally high levels of satisfaction with the amenities that are currently available and accessible to Area 2 residents.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)					
	Area 2 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 2 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	54	47	Aquatic/fitness Centre	2	2
Indoor ice rink	9	9	A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	1	3
Pathways	6	5	A community centre	1	3
An indoor swimming pool	4	8	Gathering places for community residents	1	2
Other	4	4	A public library branch	1	2
Indoor rectangular fields	4	3	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
More facilities/amenities	4	3	Public golf course/golf facility	1	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	3	6	Outdoor pool	1	1
Parks	3	5	Outdoor tennis	1	1
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	2	7	Indoor tennis	1	1
Gymnasium	2	3	Outdoor ball diamonds	1	1
Arts centres or arts studios	2	2	Classrooms	1	1
Multi-purpose room	2	2	Dance studios	0	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	2	2	Squash/racquetball	0	1
Playgrounds/tot lots	2	1	Running track/indoor/outdoor	0	1
Outdoor ice rinks	2	4	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 2 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:

- Relatively slow population growth in recent years, though development likely in the short and long term, as outlined in the Municipal Development Plan
- Considerably higher than average household incomes
- Higher than average levels of involvement in recreation and leisure activities
- Higher than average levels of satisfaction with various dimensions of recreation service provision
- Higher than average usage of many recreation amenities

While no single barrier emerged as particularly pervasive, the findings suggest that the residents of Area 2 are active and make use of the recreation and leisure amenities available to them. The proximity of certain amenities such as the two major arts centres are reflected in the activity and amenity use patterns of residents from Area 2.

Moving forward, it will be important to consider how the demographic changes projected for 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 2 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 2, 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 2**

Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 2 survey respondents (Top 5 for each amenity type)

Parks	(n=441)	Pathways	(n=385)	Indoor Swimming Pools or Leisure Aquatic Facilities	(n=316)	Public Libraries	(n=359)	Playgrounds/Tot Lots	(n=199)
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	31	Glenmore Reservoir/Park	23	Killarney Aquatic and Fitness Centre	27	Alexander Calhoun	36	In community	85
In community	18	Bow River Pathway	22	Talisman Centre	17	Signal Hill/Westhills	27	Other	12
Glenmore Reservoir/Park	18	Other	22	Glenmore Pool	13	Shaganappi	12	Don't know	3
Edworthy Park	12	In community	15	Westside Recreation Centre	10	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	9	Total	100
North Glenmore	6	Edworthy Park	8	Southland Leisure Centre	9	Memorial Park	5		
Total	85	Total	90	Total	76	Total	89		
Neighbourhood Gathering Places	(n=235)	Performance Theatres and Stages	(n=248)	Outdoor Rectangular Fields	(n=181)	Indoor Ice Rinks	0	Gymnasiums	(n=167)
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Community Centres	80	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	23	Community	37	Other	18	Other	32
Parks	9	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre	17	Other	18	Calgary Centennial Arenas	16	Talisman Centre	18
Other	6	Other	14	School	17	Westside Recreation	14	Westside Recreation	9
Don't know	3	Jubilee Auditorium	13	Don't know	8	U of C- Olympic Oval	9	Mount Royal College	8
Churches-Misc	1	Stage West	10	Glenmore Athletic Park	8	Don't know/Refused	7	Schools	5
Total	99	Total	77	Total	88	Total	64	Total	72
Outdoor Ball Diamonds	(n=150)	Running Tracks	(n=150)	Multi-Purpose Rooms	(n=150)	Arts Centres/Arts Studios Rooms	(n=135)	Indoor Rectangular Fields	(n=81)
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	60	Talisman Centre	36	Community Centres	29	Private Facility/Studio	20	Calgary Soccer Centre	55
Optimist Athletic park	9	Other	30	Other	27	Wildflower Art Centre	16	Don't know	17
Don't know	8	Mount Royal College	12	Don't know/Refused	11	Community Centres	12	Other	14
secondary)	8	Westside Recreation Centre	10	Talisman centre	8	Don't know/Refused	12	Talisman centre	4
Glenore Athletic Park	6	U of C	3	Churches	6	Glenbow Museum	9	Centre	2
Total	91	Total	91	Total	81	Total	69	Total	92
Classrooms	(n=78)	Dance Studios	(n=78)	Indoor Tennis Courts	(n=29)	Meeting Rooms	(n=78)	Squash and Racquetball Courts	(n=78)
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	29	Other Community Centres	35	U of C		Other community centres	45	Other	42
Schools	20	Private Facility/Studio	23	Glencoe Club	31	Other	15	Mount Royal College	20
U of C	17	Don't know/Refused	16	Other	27	Don't know	9	Glencoe club	13
Don't know	12	Other	11	Don't know	11	Churches	7	U of C	5
Mount Royal College	12	Mount Royal College	4	Glenmore Park	11	U of C	3	Don't know	5
Total	90	Total	89	Total	80	Total	79	Total	85