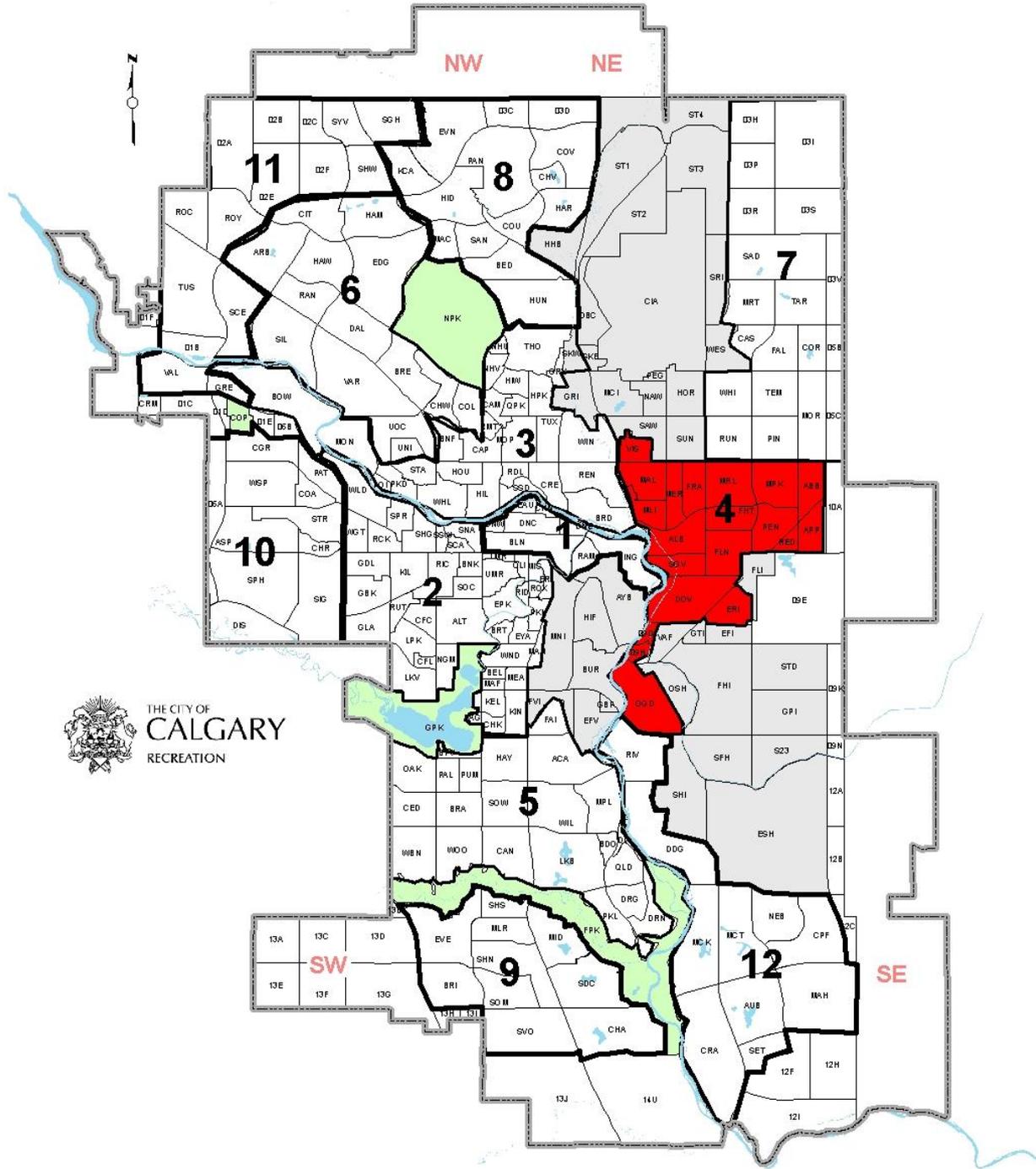

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 4



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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 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 Areas, 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 Areas 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

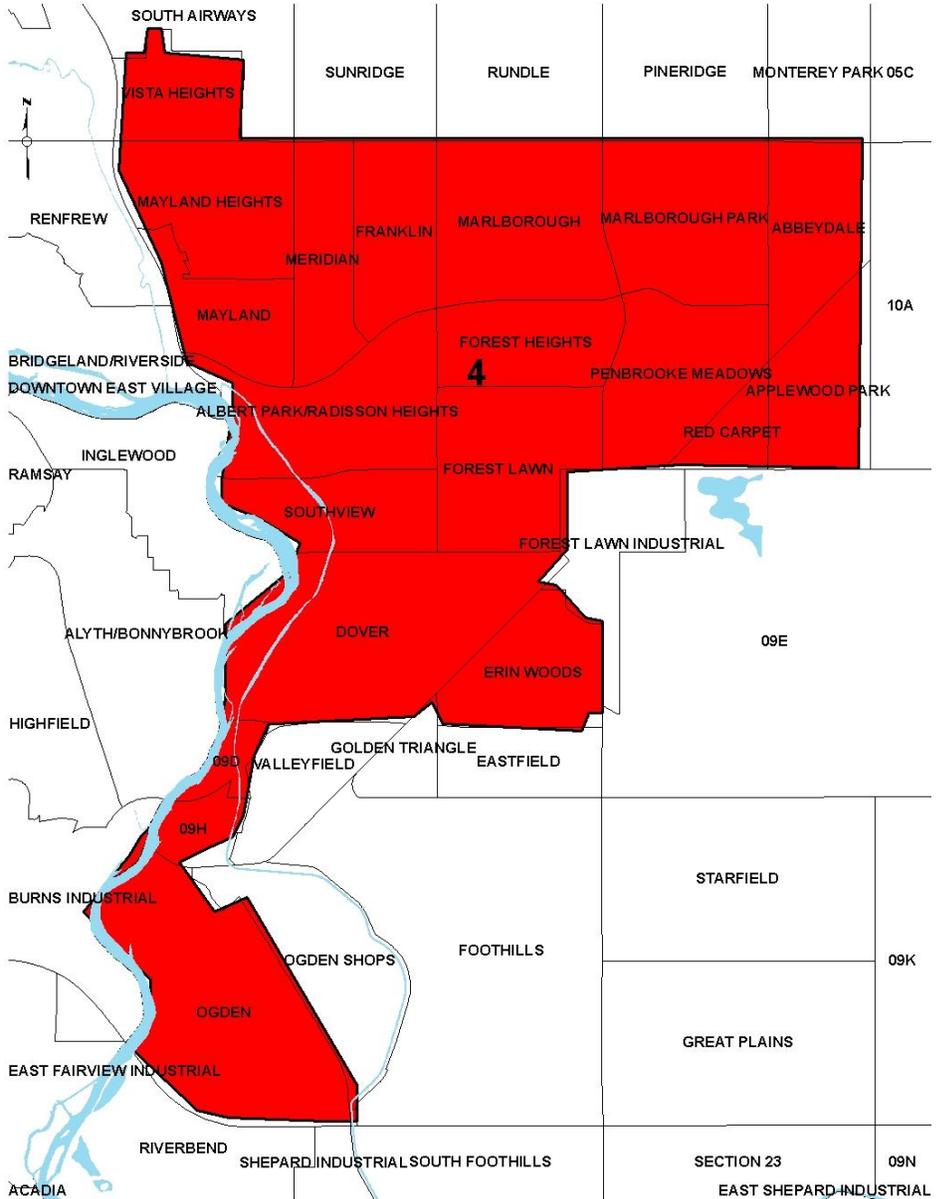
³ http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 4

Area 4

Area 4 is located in Calgary's Southeast quadrant, and is made up of the following communities:

- Abbeydale
- Albert Park
- Applewood Park
- Dover
- Erin Woods
- Forest Heights
- Forest Lawn Industrial
- Forest Lawn
- Marlborough
- Marlborough Park
- Mayland Heights
- Monterey Park
- North Airways
- Ogden
- Penbrooke Meadows
- Red Carpet/
Mountainview Mobile
Park
- Southview
- Vista Heights



A total of 500 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 106,291⁴, 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 4 began during the first part of the 20th Century; however, the majority of the area was developed between 1950 and 1985.

While Calgary as a whole has experienced significant population growth, particularly in the past few decades, population growth has not been evenly distributed across the city, with some communities actually losing residents. In fact, **Area 4 is one of three areas in Calgary that has experienced a population decline in recent years, falling by 4.5% during this period.**

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, such as those in Area 4. 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 4. 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 4 may be in a situation of vying for limited resources when short term figures indicate a population loss, making new investment counterintuitive. It may be important for recreation service providers and The City of Calgary to acknowledge and emphasize the longer term population and community development projections.

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. For example, there is a prominence of young adults (between 20 and 34 years of age) and older adults (55+) who reside in the inner city area and areas directly north and south of the inner city. In contrast, there is a prevalence of children and youth in the outlying areas of the city, including Area 4, suggesting a higher than average composition of early nest and nest with youth households.

In Area 4, the age distribution of the population is fairly consistent with the city as a whole.

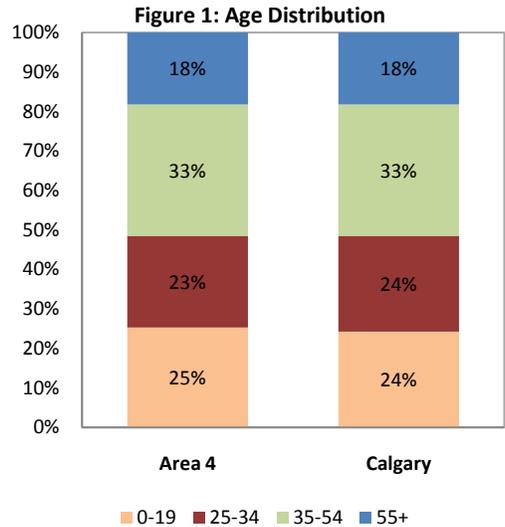
It should be noted, however, that the overall demographic profile of Calgary is expected to change over the next few decades. In particular, the age composition of residents will become older. In contrast, growth in the number of residents who are newborn to age 14 within the city will be minimal. Should 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 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

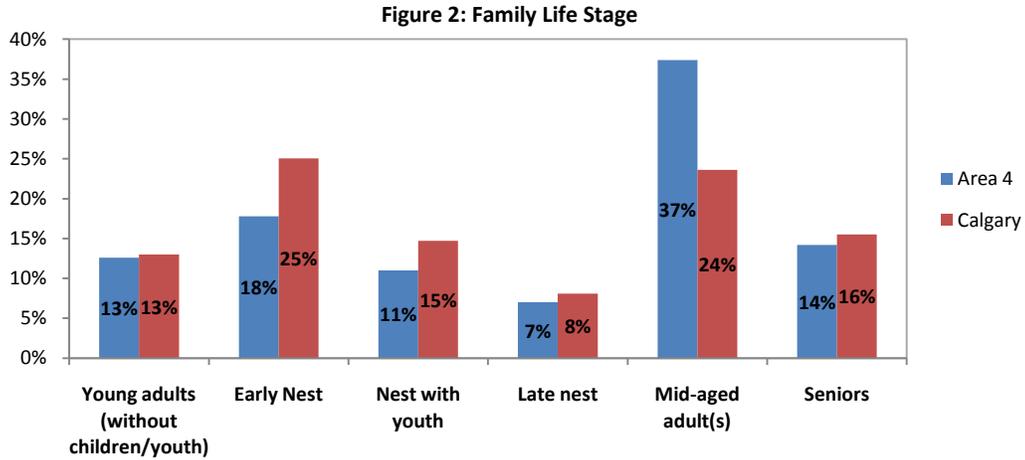
Family life stage is based on the concept that most families progress through a number of distinct phases over time, particularly with respect to household composition (both ages of household members and identified categories of household). RAGA divided survey respondents into six family life stages:

- **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.



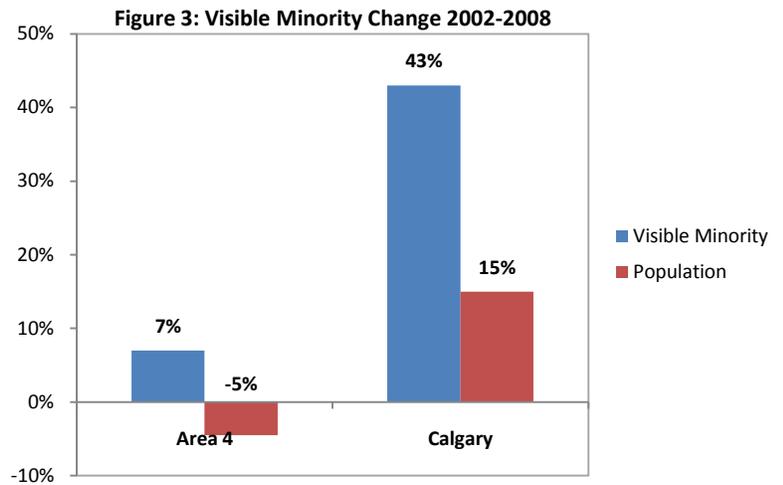
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While the age profiles of households in Area 4 are similar to those in Calgary as a whole, the family life stages of Area 4 residents are somewhat different. Currently, one-quarter of Calgary's population is in early nest households, and another one-quarter are in mid-aged adult households. Notably, Area 4 has a significantly higher proportion of Mid-Aged Adults than Calgary as a whole, and a lower proportion of households with children present. Should the population of these communities remain in Area 4, more than one third will move into the Seniors cohort over the next two decades. To that extent, trends in recreation and leisure associated with an aging population, particularly as reflected in the composition of families, may be particularly pronounced in Area 4.



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 4, while the overall population decreased by 5%, the visible minority population increased by 7% between 2002 and 2008.** So at the same time that the population is shrinking, it is also becoming more diverse.



Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. As the figure below shows, **Area 4 has a higher concentration of residents from Aboriginal and East and Southeast Asian origins, and a lower proportion of residents from European and British Isles origins.**

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Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 4	Calgary	Origin	Area 4	Calgary
British Isles origins	36	45	South Asian origins	5	6
Other North American origins	21	20	Arab origins	4	2
Western European origins	18	21	African origins	3	2
East and Southeast Asian origins	17	13	Latin, Central and South American origins	2	2
Eastern European origins	11	16	West Asian origins	1	1
French origins	10	10	Caribbean origins	1	1
Aboriginal origins	7	4	Oceania origins	0	0
Southern European origins	6	7			
Northern European origins	5	8			

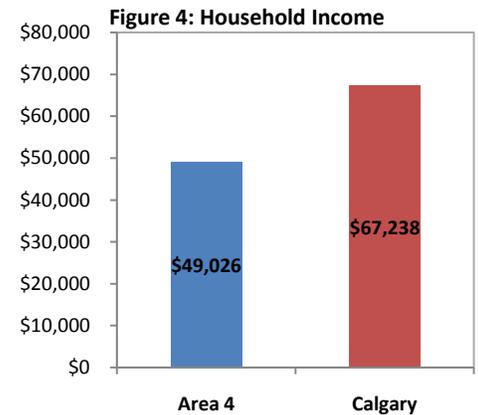
≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤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.

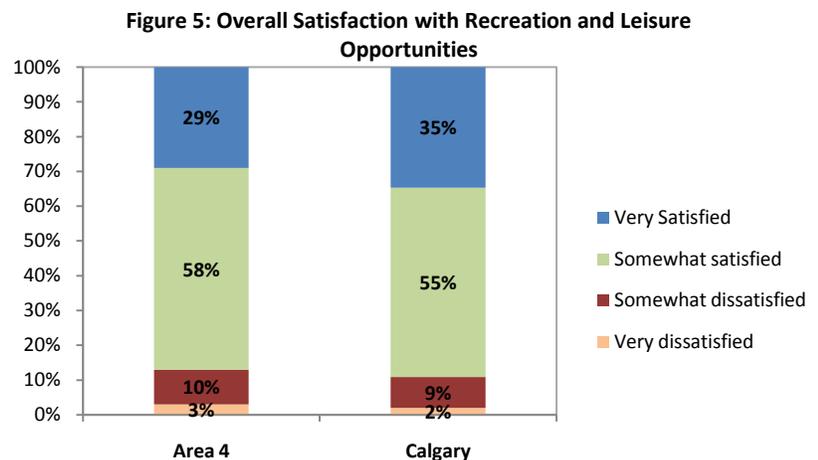
Household Income

RAGA found that household income levels among the various Study Areas differ considerably. **Median household incomes in Area 4 are substantially lower – by an average of more than \$18,000 - than for the city as a whole**, and are second lowest among the Study Areas. The affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in the city is a concern among low income Calgarians, and impacts the degree to which they consider themselves involved in recreation and leisure activities.



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, approximately 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.

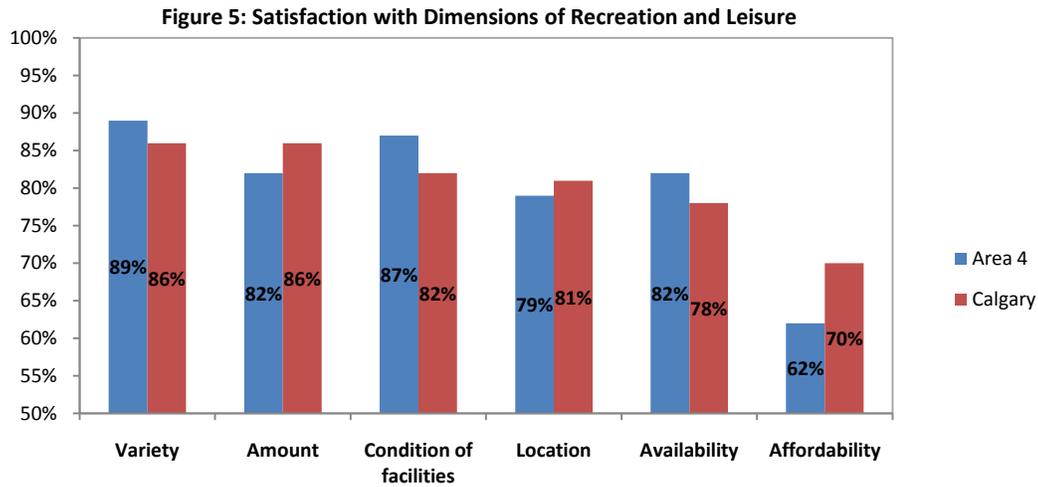


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Results from the RAGA surveys show that while overall satisfaction levels are high, **respondents from Area 4 were somewhat less likely to state that they were very satisfied with their recreation and leisure activities compared to respondents from 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 5 shows the percentage of respondents from Area 4 and from all Calgarians who were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with each.

Survey results indicate that respondents are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others. Overall, almost nine out of ten respondents indicated that they were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the variety (86%) and amount (86%) of recreation and leisure opportunities, while just seven out of ten respondents (70%) are satisfied with the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities.



However, there were also some notable differences between residents of Area 4 and Calgarians as a whole. **Area 4 residents were more satisfied with the variety and availability of recreation opportunities and with the condition of recreation facilities than were all Calgarians, but residents were less satisfied with the amount, location and affordability of recreation opportunities.**

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 4. Fully three in ten respondents expressed dissatisfaction with affordability. In fact, **respondents from Area 4 offered the lowest rating of all Study Areas on affordability, with 38% of respondents indicating that they are 'dissatisfied' or 'very dissatisfied'.**

The lower satisfaction with affordability from Area 4 may not be surprising for a number of reasons, based on its demographic profile. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents in with lower household incomes are significantly less likely to be satisfied with affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities than households with higher incomes. In

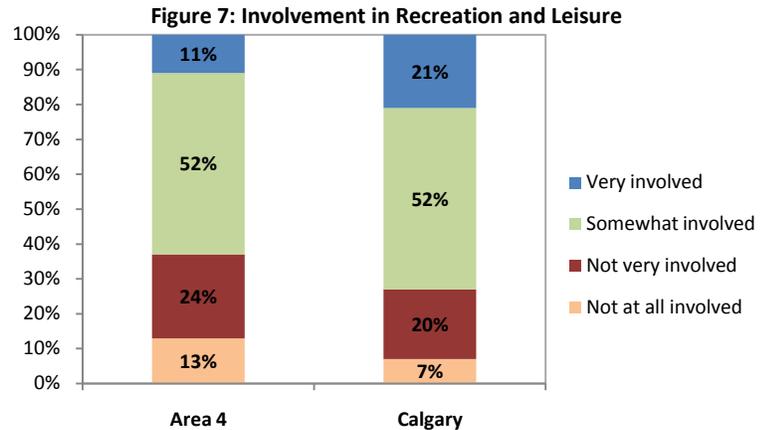
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In addition, respondents from early nest and nest with youth households are less satisfied with the variety, condition, location and availability of recreation and leisure opportunities. Finally, RAGA found that for Calgary as a whole, visible minority respondents are markedly less satisfied with the amount, location and affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in Calgary.

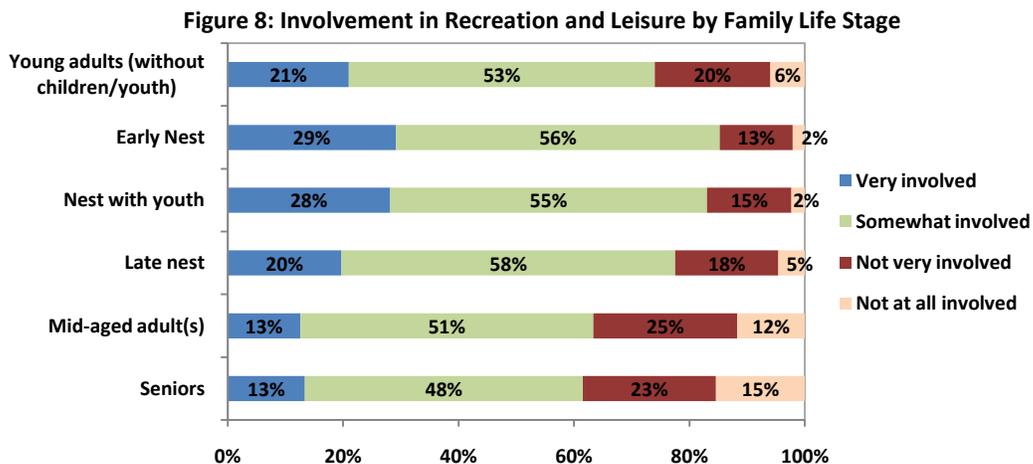
Level of Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

To gain a sense of Calgarians involvement in recreation and leisure, respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they perceived themselves to be involved with recreation and leisure activities. As can be seen in Figure 6, whereas almost three quarters of all respondents (73%) indicated that they were 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure, less than two thirds of respondents from Area 4 fell into these categories. Further, most of these (52%) stated that they were 'somewhat involved' rather than 'very involved'.

Moreover, more than one third of Area 4 respondents (37%) indicated that they were 'not very involved' or 'not at all involved' in recreation and leisure. **Overall, residents of Area 4 were least likely among all of the Study Areas to state that they were involved in recreation and leisure activities.** This is notable, as Area 4 showed lower than average overall satisfaction ratings, and significantly lower ratings for affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities. The latter of these findings may not be surprising as RAGA found that overall, households with lower levels of income are significantly less likely to be involved in recreation and leisure than households with higher income.



As Figure 7 demonstrates, similar to Calgary as a whole, early nest and nest with youth households in Area 4 are significantly more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure than mid-aged adult(s) and senior(s) household.



As such, it might be expected that levels of involvement in recreation and leisure in Area 4 would be higher than in other areas which have lower proportions of children and youth and higher

proportions of seniors; however, this is not the case. The RAGA study suggests that family life stage and household income both have an influence on recreation and leisure involvement, and based on the findings presented here, household income may be a primary influencing factor, acting on involvement in recreation and leisure prior to 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 4 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 lower involvement in recreation and leisure activities reported by residents of Area 4 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 4)

Under 13 (n=103)		13-19 (n=74)		20-44 (n=229)		45-64 (n=316)		65+ (n=102)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - lessons	60	Swimming - for pleasure	49	Swimming - for pleasure	44	Walking for pleasure	55	Walking for pleasure	58
Swimming - for pleasure	45	Cycling - for pleasure	16	Walking for pleasure	36	Swimming - for pleasure	39	Visiting friends/relatives	18
Going to the park/playground	44	Soccer - Outdoor	14	Fitness training - workout/gym	25	Golf	22	Swimming - for pleasure	13
Soccer - Outdoor	39	Fitness training - workout/gym	14	Cycling - for pleasure	24	Books/reading	15	Gardening	12
Cycling - for pleasure	34	Hockey - Ice	14	Hockey - Ice	14	Visiting friends/relatives	14	Books/reading	11
Walking for pleasure	18	Walking for pleasure	14	Camping	14	Gardening	14	Craft or hobby	11
Camping	17	Soccer - Indoor	12	Books/reading	12	Fitness training - workout/gym	13	Camping	8
Skating for pleasure/fun	16	Camping	12	Park	12	Cycling - for pleasure	13	Golf	7
Going to the library	16	Basketball	11	Hiking	11	Hiking	11	Aquasize	7
Books/reading	16	Books/reading	11	Baseball	10	Camping	11	Fitness training - workout/gym	6
Dancing - Other - Participant	15	Skating for pleasure/fun	9	Golf	9	Craft or hobby	10	Cards/playing	5
Basketball	14	Hiking	8	Soccer - Outdoor	9	Park	7	Church	5
Soccer - Indoor	13	Music - play an instrument	7	Attend movies	9	Running	6	Bowling - 5/10 pin	5
Computer - games	10	Football	7	Library	9	Skiing - Alpine	6	Dancing - Other - Participant	5
Craft or hobby	9	Skiing - Alpine	5	Skating for pleasure/fun	8	Attend movies	6	Attend a sport event (spectator)	5
Television - watching	8	Swimming - lessons	5	Fishing	8	Television - watching	6	Cycling - for pleasure	4
Hiking	8	Badminton	5	Visiting friends/relatives	6	Traveling	6	Hiking	4
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	8	Computer - games	5	Television - watching	6	Fishing	5	Television - watching	4
Visiting friends/relatives	7	Visiting friends/relatives	5	Soccer - Indoor	6	Dancing - Other - Participant	5	Traveling	4
Skiing - Alpine	7	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	5	Basketball	6	Library	4	Volunteering	4
Zoo	6	Dancing - Other - Participant	5	Computer - games	6	Attend live theatre (not movies)	4	Library	3
Boy scouts/ guides/cadets	6	Snowboarding	4	Yoga	5	Skating for pleasure/fun	4	Attend music concert	3
Camp (summer/ day camp)	5	Attend movies	4	Tennis	5	Hockey - Ice	4	Curling	3
Baseball	5	Golf	4	Running	4	Yoga	3	Park	2
Golf	4	Going to the library	4	Skiing - Alpine	4	Tennis	3	Attend movies	1
Martial arts	3	Baseball	4	Craft or hobby	4	Curling	3	Knitting/sewing	1
Hockey - Ice	2	Television - watching	4	Attend music concert	3	Attend music concert	2	Skiing - Alpine	0
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	2	Running	3	Attend live theatre (not movies)	3	Skiing - Nordic	2	Attend live theatre (not movies)	0
Music - play an instrument	1	Tennis	3	Gardening	2	Volunteering	2	Board games/puzzles	0
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	1	Skateboarding	3	Snowboarding	2	Attend a sport event (spectator)	1	Yoga	0

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤3% of Calgary Average

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In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 4 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 4 residents participate in a fewer number of activities on average than in all Areas combined.

Among the newborn to 12 year old age group, swimming, either for pleasure or in lessons was the most common activity in Area 4 as it was for all Study Areas. Whereas for Calgary as a whole, swimming for pleasure was reported for 60% of children in this cohort, it was reported for just 45% of children for Area 4. In addition, children from Area 4 were far less likely than those from most other Study Areas to mention skating for pleasure, playing ice hockey and playing a music instrument.

Swimming for pleasure was also a commonly cited activity among 13 to 19 year olds across most of the Study Areas. In Area 4 however, there were some activities that showed lower than average involvement among this cohort. For instance, residents showed lower involvement rates in cycling for pleasure (-11%), outdoor soccer (-9%) and fitness training (-9%).

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming for pleasure was again the top rated activity. Additionally, walking for pleasure and fitness training become more common among this age group compared to younger groups. However, residents of Area 4 reported walking for pleasure (36%) and fitness training (25%), as well as running (4%) and alpine skiing (4%), significantly less than Calgarians as a whole.

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was most common and was prevalent in all Areas, although less so in Area 4 (-11%). Further, fitness training was much less common in Area 4 compared to other areas (-21%), as was cycling for pleasure. In contrast, swimming for pleasure was reported by 39% of residents in this age group in Area 4, compared with 31% of Calgarians.

Walking for pleasure remains the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group. While this is a prevalent activity among all Areas, 12% fewer residents in Area 4 reported involvement. Reading and cycling are also reported significantly less often in Area 4 than in Calgary as a whole.

While the top activities in which residents of Area 4 participate are similar to those in other areas, their level of involvement is consistently lower. In addition, Area 4 residents reported being involved in fewer activities than in Calgary as a whole. There may be a number of reasons for the lower activity involvement in Area 4; the RAGA research suggests that there may be barriers facing households in this part of the city which limit their involvement in recreation and leisure.

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 44% of respondents from Area 4 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. Still, more than half of respondents in this Area 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 4	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	58	63
Already participate as often as would like	44	51
Involved in other activities	11	9
Just lazy	2	2
Not interested	1	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
Other priorities/time constraints	15	17
No time	7	9
Work commitments	5	6
Family commitments	1	2
Travel a lot	1	0
School commitments	1	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	16	13
Too far away/inconvenient	5	4
Prices/fees too high/too costly	3	3
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Nothing organized/available	1	1
Lack of awareness/information	1	1
Opportunities available do not my schedule	2	1
Opportunities available too full/crowded	1	1
Other	0	0
Social Isolation	10	6
Cannot afford	4	3
Poor health/physically challenged	4	2
Age (too old)	2	1
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know	0	0
Total	100	100

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

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enhanced or additional services. Barriers related to personal situations and time constraints, however, may be less easily addressed. Indeed, some of the common barriers indentified by Area 4 households - too far away/inconvenient and cost - seem to closely mirror those elements of recreation with which residents were least satisfied (location, amount and affordability).

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 32% of respondents from Area 4, and 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 4	Total		Area 4	Total
	(n=500)	(n=6,024)		(n=500)	(n=6,024)
Swimming - for pleasure	5	4	Parachuting	1	1
Fitness training - workout/gym	4	4	Walking for pleasure	1	1
Yoga	2	2	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1
Art class/program	2	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	2	1	Curling	1	1
Hockey - Ice	2	1	Aquasize	1	1
Craft or hobby	2	1	Baseball	1	1
Courses	2	1	Hiking	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	1	2	Dancing - Ballroom	1	1
Tennis	1	2	Music - play an instrument	0	1
Martial arts	1	2	Attend educational courses	0	1
Swimming - lessons	1	1	Golf	0	1
Soccer - Outdoor	1	1	Rock climbing	0	1
Skiing - Alpine	1	1	Badminton	0	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Running/jogging	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.

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 some areas of the city that recreation service providers ought to consider in terms of providing recreation and leisure opportunities to Calgarians. Area 4 has shown some unique characteristics that may need to be considered in future recreation and leisure service planning.

	Area 4	Calgary		Area 4	Calgary
	(n=500)	(n=6,023)		(n=500)	(n=6,023)
Parks	78	85	Outdoor ice rinks	18	30
Pathways	64	78	Multi-purpose rooms	17	22
Public Libraries	55	67	Arts centres or arts studios	15	22
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	55	61	Meeting rooms	15	19
Playgrounds or tot lots	42	37	Classrooms	12	19
Neighbourhood gathering places	38	42	Indoor rectangular fields	12	15
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	35	53	Outdoor Tennis courts	10	17
Performance theatres or stages	34	44	Dance studios	9	13
Outdoor rectangular fields	24	30	Running Track	8	16
Indoor ice rinks	22	29	Squash/Racquetball courts	3	8
Gymnasiums	21	32	Indoor Tennis courts	2	4
Outdoor ball diamonds	20	17	Lawn bowling greens	1	2

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, with the exception of playgrounds/tot lots and outdoor diamonds, Area 4 residents use each of the listed recreation and leisure amenities at lower levels than do Calgarians as a whole. Lower than average household incomes may account for some this disparity, though in the case of parks and pathways which have no cost, proximity may also be an issue.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 4 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 thought were needed in their areas.

On the whole, a considerable portion of respondents from Area 4 (59%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is higher than for the city as a whole (47%). Parks and pathways, the two most frequently used amenities and which have no cost, were also the most frequently identified as needed in Area 4. A number of amenity types, such as an indoor pool, indoor ice rink, regional recreation centre and leisure centre were mentioned by a substantially smaller proportion of Area 4 respondents than in Calgary as a whole.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)

	Area 4	Calgary		Area 4	Calgary
	(n=500)	(n=6,023)		(n=500)	(n=6,023)
Nothing	59	47	Gymnasium	1	3
Pathways	7	5	A community centre	1	3
Parks	6	5	Aquatic/fitness Centre	1	2
An indoor swimming pool	5	8	Arts centres or arts studios	1	2
Indoor ice rink	4	9	A public library branch	1	2
Outdoor ice rinks	4	4	Outdoor tennis	1	1
Other	4	4	Dance studios	1	1
More facilities/amenities	4	3	Playgrounds/tot lots	1	1
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	2	7	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
Indoor rectangular fields	2	3	Classrooms	1	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	2	2	Running track/indoor/outdoor	1	1
Multi-purpose room	2	2	A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	0	3
Gathering places for community residents	2	2	Indoor tennis	0	1
Public golf course/golf facility	2	1	Outdoor pool	0	1
Skateboard park	2	1	Outdoor ball diamonds	0	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	1	6	Squash/racquetball	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 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 4 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:

- Net population loss over the next two decades, coupled with increasing ethnic diversity of residents
- Lower than average household incomes
- Lower levels of involvement in recreation and leisure activities
- Lower levels of satisfaction with the amount, location and affordability of recreation opportunities
- Lower usage of many recreation amenities

Still, residents from Area 4 were more likely than those from other areas to indicate that no new amenities are needed in their area, and there was no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive. When asked about activities that they might consider pursuing, the interests expressed were similar to those activities which are already popular, such as swimming and fitness, though there was a significant range of activities mentioned.

Such disparate findings suggest that residents may benefit from being encouraged to recreate, or in fact that additional recreation and leisure opportunities are needed in Area 4, and that due in part to social isolation factors, residents this area of the city may be at risk of not being able to reap the individual and community benefits of recreation. Such opportunities should have affordability as a primary focus, so as to be accessible to all members of the region, particularly those most in need.

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 4

Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 4 survey respondents (Top 5 for each amenity type)

Parks (n=394)		Pathways (n=327)		Indoor Swimming Pools or Leisure Aquatic Facilities (n=274)		Public Libraries (271)		Playgrounds/Tot Lots (n=207)		Neighbourhood Gathering Places (n=194)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
In community	46	In community	59	Village Square Leisure Centre	37	South of Fish Creek/ Shawnessy YMCA	0	In community	94	Community Centres	65
Other	26	Other	23	Bob Bahan Aquatic and Fitness Centre	31	Forest Lawn	47	Other	4	Other	18
Fish Creek Provincial Park	5	Don't know	6	Other	9	Village Square	29	Don't know	2	Don't know	6
Bowness Park	5	Prince's Island Park	3	Southland Leisure Centre	6	Glenmore Square	12			Churches-Misc	5
Prince's Island Park	5	Fish Creek Provincial Park	2	Renfrew Pool and Fitness Centre	6	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	8			Parks	4
Total	87	Total	93	Total	89	Total	96	Total	100	Total	98
Fitness Facilities (n=178)		Performance Theatres and Stages (n=170)		Outdoor Rectangular Fields (n=115)		Indoor Ice Rinks (n=111)		Gymnasiums (n=101)		Outdoor Ice Rinks (n=91)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	27	Jubilee Auditorium	20	In Community	63	Village Square Leisure Centre	33	Village Square Leisure Centre	25	In community	76
Village Square Leisure Centre	14	Stage West	19	Other	13	Ernie Starr Arena	11	Other	25	Park/Lake	9
Spa Lady	11	Jack Singer Concert Hall/ Epcor Centre	13	Don't know	9	Other	9	Community centres	24	Don't know	9
Gold's Gym	9	Other	13	School	7	Jack Setters arena	8	Schools	8	Olympic Plaza	4
Private Home Gym	7	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts /Theatre Calgary	11			East Calgary Twin Arenas	7	Don't know/Refused	8	Out of City	1
Total	68	Total	76	Total	100	Total	68	Total	90	Total	99
Outdoor Ball Diamonds (n=85)		Running Tracks (n=85)		Multi-Purpose Rooms (n=85)		Arts Centres/Arts Studios Rooms (n=76)		Indoor Rectangular Fields (n=56)		Outdoor Tennis Courts (n=48)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
School (not post secondary)	5	Talisman Centre	31	Community Centres	52	Glenbow Museum	18	Calgary Soccer Centre	79	In community	81
Other	73	Other	31	Don't know/Refused	21	Don't know/Refused	18	Other	7	Other	13
Don't know	12	Don't know	15	Village Square Leisure Centre	11	Downtown- Unspecified	12	Don't know	7	Don't know	6
Optimist Athletic park	3	U of C	8	Other	6	Community Centres	11	Village Square Leisure Centre	4		
Jaycee slow-pitch park	2	YMCA (no specific facility)	5	Talisman centre	4	Other	7	Calgary West Soccer Centre	2		
Total	95	Total	90	Total	94	Total	66	Total	99	Total	100
Classrooms (n=42)		Dance Studios (n=42)		Indoor Tennis Courts (n=42)		Meeting Rooms (n=42)		Squash and Racquetball Courts (n=42)			
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%		
Schools	38	Other Community Centres	44	Other	63	Other community centres	61	Other	55		
Don't know	21	Don't know/Refused	21	Village Square Leisure Centre	25	Other	11	Don't know	18		
Other	15	Private Facility/Studio	14	Don't know	13	Don't know	8	Southland Leisure Centre	9		
U of C	11	Other	14			Churches	7	SAIT	9		
SAIT	8	Village Square Leisure Centre	7			Workplace (offices)	7	YMCA (no specific facility)	9		
Total	93	Total	100	Total	100	Total	94	Total	100		