

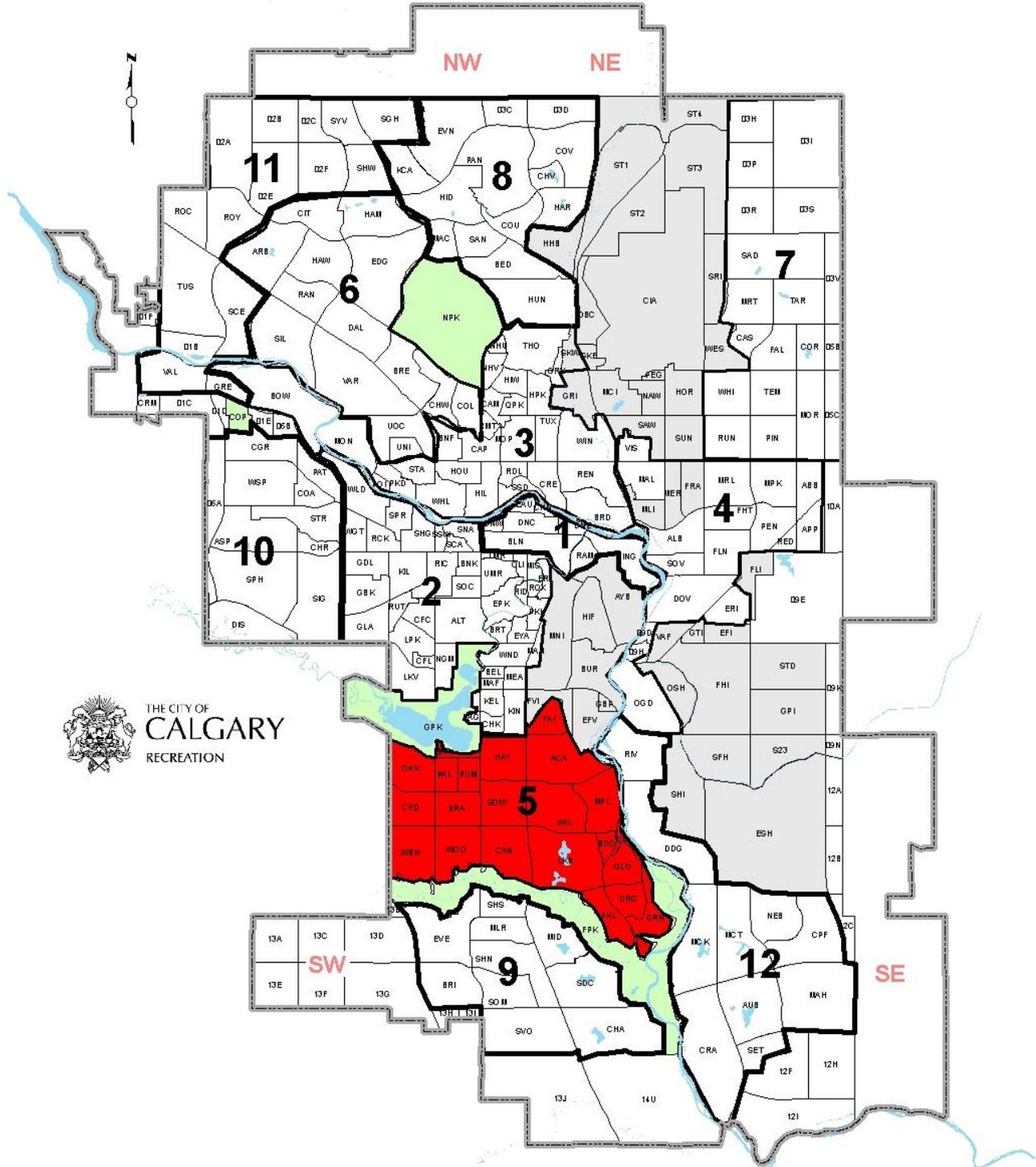
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**Recreation Amenities**

**Gap Analysis**

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# Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 5



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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<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 can provide general insights into each region, and also guide the development of community-specific research initiatives.

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<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)

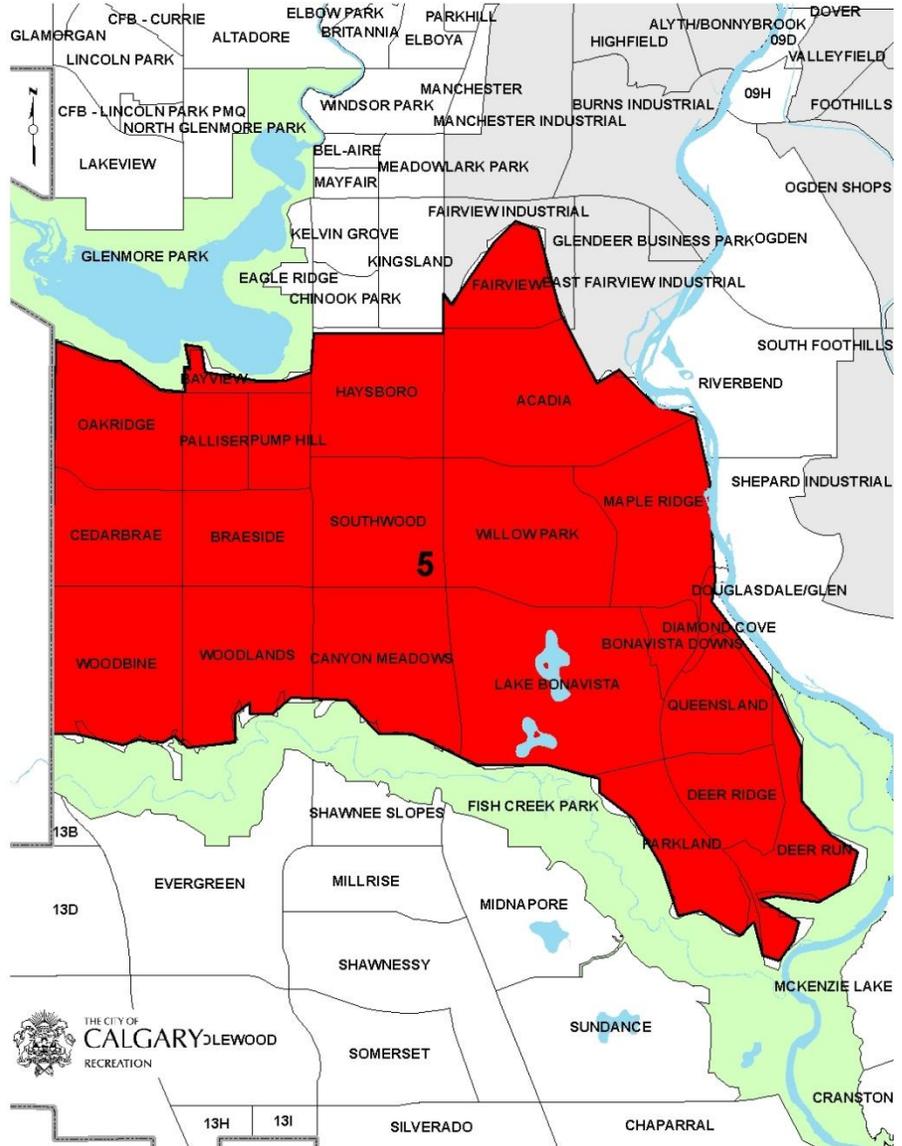
<sup>3</sup> [http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning\\_and\\_policy/gap\\_analysis\\_report.pdf](http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf)

# Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 5

## Area 5

Area 5 is located in the central southwest region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Acadia
- Bayview
- Bonavista Downs
- Braeside
- Canyon Meadows
- Cedarbrae
- Deer Ridge
- Deer Run
- Diamond Cove
- Fairview
- Haysboro
- Lake Bonavista
- Maple Ridge
- Oak Ridge
- Palliser
- Parkland
- Pump Hill
- Queensland Downs
- Southwood
- Willow Park
- Woodbine
- Woodlands



A total of 500 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 112,303<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 5 began in the 1950s, and continued until about the mid-1980s.

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 5 is one of three areas in Calgary that has experienced a population decline in recent years, falling by 6% 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 the those areas which 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.

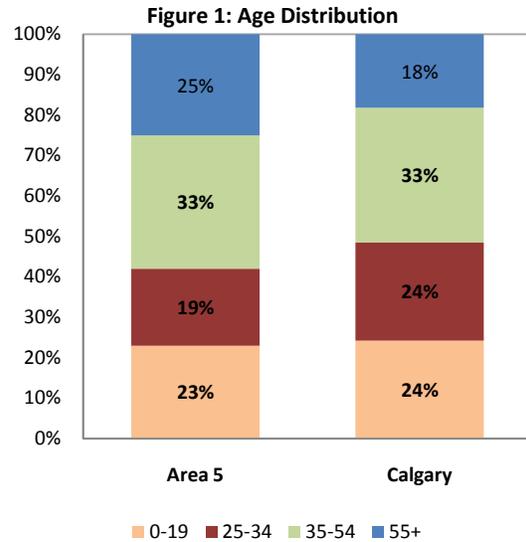
Such a projected community development pattern will have important implications for recreation amenity planning in Area 5. In particular, facility investment decisions, both in terms of new construction and lifecycle maintenance may need to balance a number of competing interests: For example, newer, growing communities on Calgary's periphery may need new infrastructure to provide residents with accessible recreation opportunities. **At the same time, established communities such as those in Area 5 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.** 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 5, there is a lower proportion of residents between 25 and 34, and a higher proportion of those over 55 as compared to Calgary as a whole.** This suggests a higher than average composition of retirees and households without children living at home in Area 5.

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.



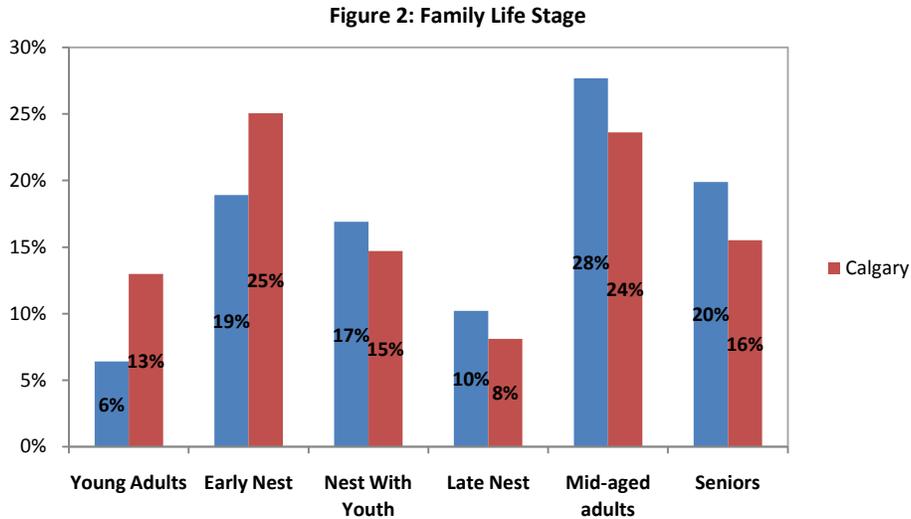
Data collected for RAGA suggests that these older residents are likely to be more involved in recreation and leisure pursuits compared to previous generations of seniors. In particular, they will likely want to be both physically and mentally active to ensure that they maintain a quality of life that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

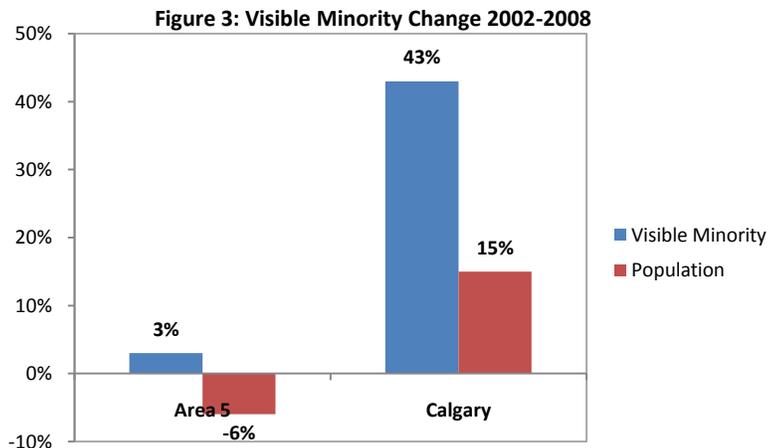
## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 5



Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 5 residents are also somewhat different than for Calgary as a whole. **Area 5 has lower proportions of Young Adults and Early Nest families, and higher proportions of families with children in their teen years and older, and families with children no longer at home.** 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 5 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 5, while the overall population fell by just 6%, the visible minority population increased by 3% between 2002 and 2008.** This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 5 have changed considerably even in spite of slow population growth.



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Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. **Area 5 has significantly more residents from the British Isles and western European countries, and fewer residents from Asian countries compared to Calgary as a whole, with a couple of exceptions.**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 5	Calgary	Origin	Area 5	Calgary
British Isles origins	54	45	South Asian origins	2	6
Western European origins	24	21	Caribbean origins	1	1
Other North American origins	22	20	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
Eastern European origins	18	16	African origins	1	2
French origins	11	10	Arab origins	1	2
Northern European origins	9	8	West Asian origins	1	1
Southern European origins	6	7	Oceania origins	0	0
East and Southeast Asian origins	6	13			
Aboriginal origins	4	4			

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

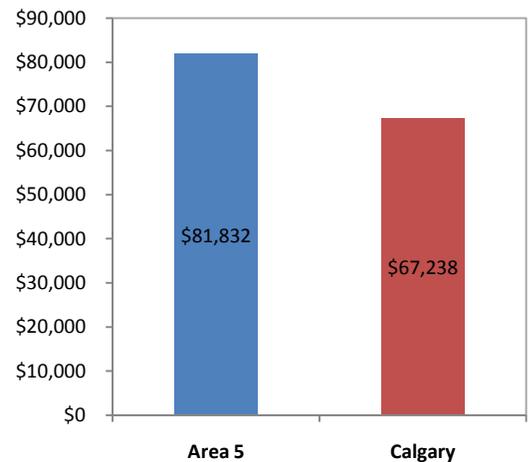
≤3% of Calgary Average

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 among 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 5 are substantially higher – by an average of more than \$14,500 - 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 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 5 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 5 and from all Calgarians who were ‘somewhat satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with each.

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

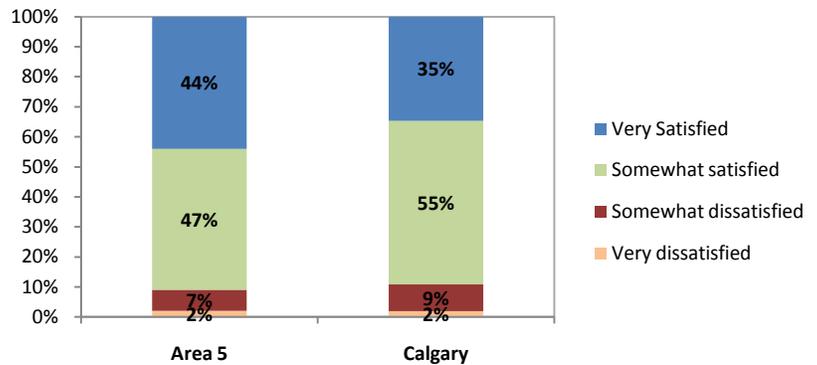
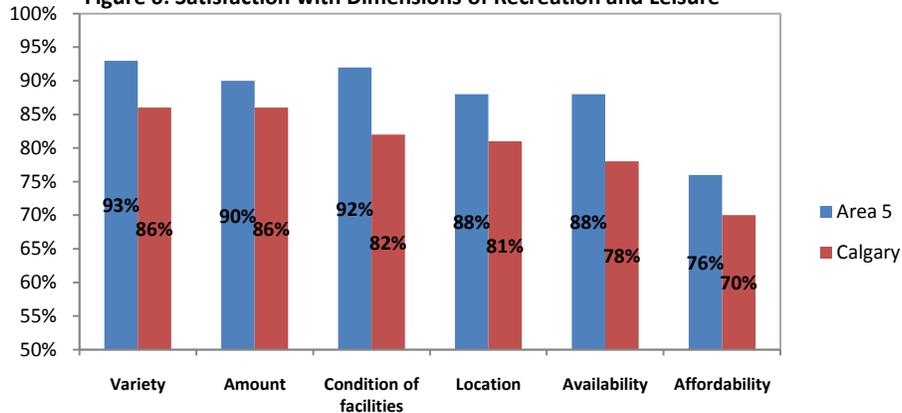


Figure 6: Satisfaction with Dimensions of Recreation and Leisure



## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 5

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Survey results indicate that Calgarians are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others, and that **Area 5 residents tend to give higher satisfaction ratings on all dimensions compared to Calgary as a whole. More than nine out of ten survey respondents indicated that they were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the variety and amount of recreation and leisure opportunities, and with the condition of recreation facilities; nearly nine in ten were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the location and availability of recreation available. Even affordability was rated somewhat or very satisfactory by more than three-quarters of Area 5 residents.**

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 5, though to a lesser extent. 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. Having substantially higher average annual incomes, it is perhaps not surprising that Area 5 residents rated affordability similarly to Calgarians as a whole.

## 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, the same proportion of Area 5 respondents (73%) indicated that they were ‘very involved’ or ‘somewhat involved’ in recreation and leisure as in Calgary as a whole (73%). There was only a slight difference in the proportion who indicated that they were ‘very involved’. This seems consistent with the higher satisfaction ratings given by Area 5 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 5 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages. **Notably, late nest households in Area 5 indicated being ‘very involved’ or ‘somewhat involved’ in recreation and leisure in greater proportions than in Calgary as a whole.** This is noteworthy given the higher proportion of this group in Area 5. Conversely, Young Adults in Area 5 were less involved relative to other areas of the city.

Figure 7: Perceived Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

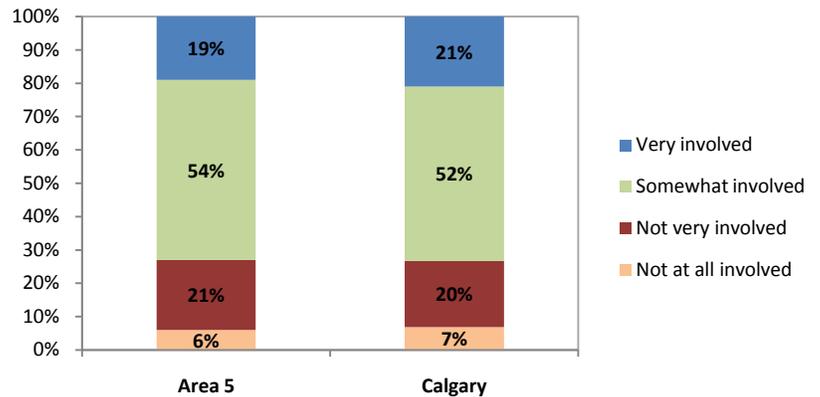
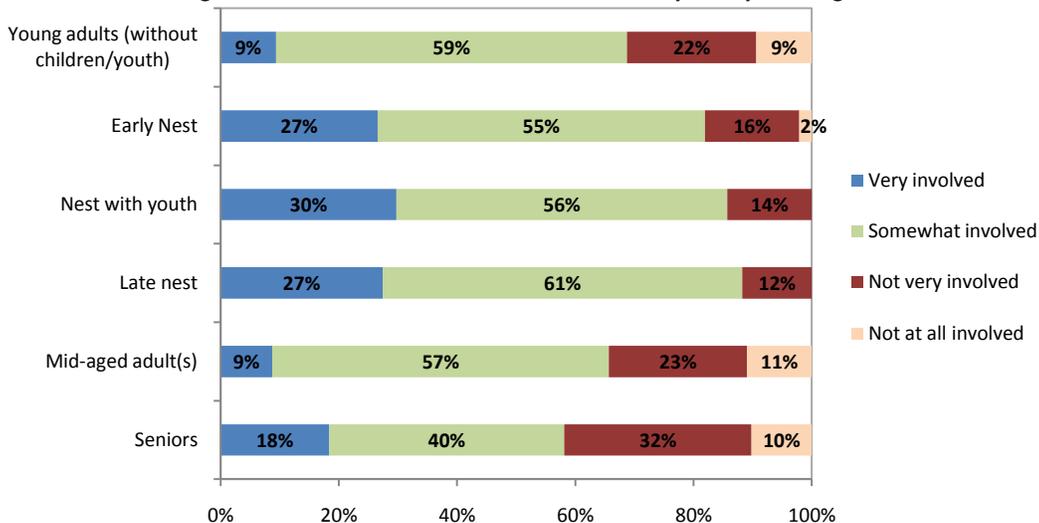


Figure 8: Involvement in Recreation and Leisure by Family Life Stage



## **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 5 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 5 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 5)**

Under 13 (n=103)		13-19 (n=121)		20-44 (n=200)		45-64 (n=306)		65+ (n=126)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - for pleasure	75	Swimming - for pleasure	49	Swimming - for pleasure	39	Walking for pleasure	73	Walking for pleasure	72
Soccer - Outdoor	45	Fitness training - workout/gym	38	Walking for pleasure	35	Fitness training - workout/gym	43	Books/reading	33
Going to the park/playground	33	Cycling - for pleasure	37	Fitness training - workout/gym	34	Cycling - for pleasure	36	Visiting friends/relatives	29
Swimming - lessons	29	Soccer - Outdoor	26	Cycling - for pleasure	31	Swimming - for pleasure	31	Golf	27
Skating for pleasure/fun	29	Hockey - Ice	24	Hiking	22	Golf	29	Gardening	25
Cycling - for pleasure	26	Walking for pleasure	21	Golf	19	Hiking	28	Fitness training - workout/gym	19
Music - play an instrument	23	Music - play an instrument	21	Running	17	Books/reading	25	Swimming - for pleasure	18
Dancing - Other - Participant	23	Skiing - Alpine	18	Yoga	14	Visiting friends/relatives	18	Traveling	18
Hockey - Ice	20	Books/reading	17	Books/reading	13	Library	16	Cycling - for pleasure	17
Walking for pleasure	20	Soccer - Indoor	15	Skiing - Alpine	13	Gardening	15	Attend live theatre (not movies)	16
Hiking	17	Skating for pleasure/fun	15	Skating for pleasure/fun	13	Attend live theatre (not movies)	14	Hiking	15
Martial arts	17	Snowboarding	14	Soccer - Outdoor	10	Skiing - Alpine	13	Attend music concert	13
Soccer - Indoor	16	Hiking	12	Hockey - Ice	9	Running	12	Television - watching	11
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	12	Running	12	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Attend movies	11	Volunteering	10
Books/reading	12	Football	12	Attend live theatre (not movies)	9	Yoga	11	Curling	10
Skiing - Alpine	11	Attend movies	10	Library	8	Attend music concert	11	Board games/puzzles	10
Going to the library	9	Dancing - Other - Participant	10	Park	7	Camping	10	Craft or hobby	9
Camp (summer/day camp)	7	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	9	Camping	7	Traveling	10	Library	9
Zoo	7	Basketball	7	Attend music concert	7	Hockey - Ice	9	Park	7
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	7	Computer - games	7	Attend movies	6	Skating for pleasure/fun	8	Cards/playing	6
Visiting friends/relatives	6	Golf	7	Tennis	5	Park	8	Attend movies	6
Basketball	5	Going to the library	7	Soccer - Indoor	5	Craft or hobby	8	Knitting/sewing	6
Camping	4	Baseball	7	Baseball	5	Tennis	7	Skiing - Alpine	5
Baseball	4	Camping	6	Basketball	5	Fishing	6	Yoga	5
Craft or hobby	3	Badminton	5	Computer - games	4	Curling	6	Camping	4
Television - watching	3	Visiting friends/relatives	5	Gardening	4	Skiing - Nordic	5	Dancing - Other - Participant	4
Computer - games	2	Tennis	4	Craft or hobby	4	Volunteering	5	Attend a sport event (spectator)	4
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	2	Skateboarding	4	Snowboarding	4	Dancing - Other - Participant	4	Church	3
Golf	2	Swimming - lessons	1	Fishing	3	Television - watching	2	Bowling - 5/10 pin	3
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	0	Television - watching	0	Television - watching	2	Attend a sport event (spectator)	2	Aquasize	2

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤3% of Calgary Average

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 5

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**In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 5 participate in many recreation activities to a greater extent than in Calgary as a whole. Further, data show that Area 5 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 5 as it was for all Study Areas. **In fact, swimming for pleasure was indicated by 15% more residents in Area 5 than in Calgary as a whole. Other notable differences between Area 5 and Calgary as a whole include dancing-other (+13%) and martial arts (+10%). In contrast, swimming lessons was indicated by 31% fewer Area 5 residents in this cohort as compared to Calgary as a whole.**

Swimming, fitness training and cycling for pleasure were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 5, and were reported by in greater proportions (+7%, +15% and +10% respectively) than in Calgary as a whole. However, Area 5 residents were less likely to engage in basketball (-10%) and swimming lessons (-9%) than all Calgarians.

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming and walking for pleasure were the top rated activities, and were slightly less common in Area 5 (-6%) than in Calgary as a whole. Yoga (+6%) and attending live theatre (+5%) were more common among Area 5 residents in this age group 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 5 residents were more involved in a number of activities than residents of Calgary as a whole, including fitness training (+9%), hiking (+9%) and visiting the library (+9%).

Walking for pleasure was again the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Calgary as a whole, and in similar proportions in Area 5. Residents in Area 5 were more active in a number of activities, including attending live theatre (+11%), gardening (+10%) and travelling (+9%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 5 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. Interestingly, particularly given the proximity of Southland Leisure Centre and various aquatic and fitness centres, swimming lessons are less commonly reported by children and youth in Area 5 than in all of Calgary, while fitness training is more common in a number of age cohorts.

## 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 48% of respondents from Area 5 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like.** Still, almost 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 5</b>	<b>Calgary</b>
<b>Personal interest/situation</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>63</b>
Already participate as often as would like	48	51
Involved in other activities	9	9
Just lazy	3	2
Not interested	1	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
<b>Other priorities/time constraints</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>
No time	11	9
Work commitments	7	6
Family commitments	1	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	1	0
<b>Facility/Program Accessibility</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>
Too far away/inconvenient	3	4
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	2	2
Other	2	0
Prices/fees too high/too costly	1	3
Opportunities available too full/crowded	0	1
Opportunities available do not my schedule	0	1
Nothing organized/available	1	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
<b>Social Isolation</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
Cannot afford	4	3
Poor health/physically challenged	2	2
Age (too old)	2	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>

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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 5 households – no time and work commitments – are not easily addressed through improvements to recreation and leisure infrastructure. It is interesting to note a lower proportion of Area 5 residents reporting program/facility accessibility as a constraint.

### 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 36% of respondents from Area 5, compared to 30% of respondents from all Study Areas combined were interested in one or more other recreation activities that they do not currently participate in. Table 4 shows the percentage of respondents interested in participating in each of the top 30 most common activities.

Table 4: Recreation Activities of Interest (%)					
(Organized by Top 30 Most Common Activities)					
	Area 5	Calgary		Area 5	Calgary
	(n= 500)	(n=6,024)		(n= 500)	(n=6,024)
Fitness training - workout/gym	6	4	Rock climbing	1	1
Swimming - for pleasure	4	4	Swimming - lessons	1	1
Yoga	4	2	Soccer - Outdoor	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	3	2	Cycling - for pleasure	1	1
Art class/program	3	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	2	1	Hockey - Ice	1	1
Skiing - Alpine	2	1	Curling	1	1
Parachuting	2	1	Aquasize	1	1
Golf	2	1	Dancing - Ballroom	1	1
Courses	2	1	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1
Walking for pleasure	2	1	Hiking	0	1
Music - play an instrument	1	1	Attend educational courses	0	1
Tennis	1	2	Running/jogging	0	1
Martial arts	1	2	Badminton	0	1
Craft or hobby	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, fitness training and swimming - both facility-based activities - were the most frequently mentioned activities of interest, and fitness training was reported by more Area 5 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 5 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 5 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	88	85	Indoor ice rinks	35	22
Pathways	84	78	Outdoor ice rinks	25	22
Public Libraries	71	67	Multi-purpose rooms	32	19
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	60	61	Arts centres or arts studios	30	19
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	59	53	Meeting rooms	22	17
Performance theatres or stages	55	44	Classrooms	23	17
Neighbourhood gathering places	48	42	Outdoor Tennis courts	16	16
Playgrounds or tot lots	42	37	Running Track	18	15
Outdoor rectangular fields	32	32	Outdoor ball diamonds	14	13
Gymnasiums	36	30	Indoor rectangular fields	10	8
Indoor ice rinks	31	30	Dance studios	5	4
Outdoor ice rinks	34	29	Squash/Racquetball courts	2	2

As Table 5 shows, Area 5 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. Notably, indoor ice rinks (+13%) multi-purpose rooms (+13%), arts centres/studios (+11%) and performance theatres/stages (+11%) are used by a significantly greater proportion of Area 5 residents.

The specific amenities used by residents of Area 5 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 5 (57%) 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 5, 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 5 residents.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)					
	Area 5 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 5 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	57	47	Multi-purpose room	1	2
Indoor ice rink	8	9	A community centre	1	3
Pathways	4	5	Gathering places for community residents	1	2
An indoor swimming pool	4	8	A public library branch	1	2
Other	4	4	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
Indoor rectangular fields	4	3	Outdoor tennis	1	1
More facilities/amenities	3	3	Indoor tennis	1	1
Arts centres or arts studios	3	2	Dance studios	1	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	3	2	Squash/racquetball	1	1
Parks	2	5	Running track/indoor/outdoor	1	1
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	2	7	Playgrounds/tot lots	0	1
Outdoor ice rinks	2	4	Aquatic/fitness Centre	0	2
A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	2	3	Outdoor pool	0	1
Public golf course/golf facility	2	1	Outdoor ball diamonds	0	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	1	6	Classrooms	0	1
Gymnasium	1	3	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 5 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 in recent years, though development likely in the short and long term, as outlined in the Municipal Development Plan, which will boost the population of this Area substantially.
- Considerably higher than average household incomes
- Higher than average levels of involvement in recreation and leisure activities
- Higher than average levels of satisfaction with all 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 5 are active and make use of the recreation and leisure amenities available to them. The proximity of certain amenities such as Southland Leisure Centre are reflected in the activity and amenity use patterns of residents from Area 5.

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 5 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 5, 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 5

### Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 5 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	47	Fish Creek Provincial Park	48	Southland Leisure Centre	40	Fish Creek	60	In community	88	Other	22
In community	19	In community	18	Canyon Meadows Aquatic and Fitness Centre	14	Southwood	29	Other	10	Southland Leisure Centre	21
Glenmore Reservoir/Park	14	Glenmore Reservoir/Park	15	Family Leisure Centre	10	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	5	Don't know	2	Family Leisure Centre	11
Other	7	Other	9	Acadia Aquatic and Fitness Centre	10	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	2	Total	100	Spa Lady	7
Bowness Park	3	Bow River Pathway	5	Talisman Centre	4	Signal Hill/Westhills	1			Private facility	6
Total	90	Total	95	Total	78	Total	97				
Neighbourhood Gathering Places (n=238)		Performance Theatres and Stages (n=271)		Outdoor Rectangular Fields (n=164)		Indoor Ice Rinks (n=162)		Gymnasiums (n=181)		Outdoor Ice Rinks (n=173)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Community Centres	73	Jubilee Auditorium	20	Community	61	Southland Leisure Centre	26	Community centres	21	In community/centre	86
Other	14	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	18	School	15	Lake Bonavista arena	14	Southland Leisure Centre	20	Park/Lake	6
Parks	4	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	17	Other	13	Other	12	Other	17	Don't know	3
Don't know	4	Other	12	Don't know	5	Oakridge Arena	8	Schools	11	Other	3
Churches-Misc	4	Stage West	8	Glenmore Athletic Park	2	U of C- Olympic Oval	7	Family Leisure Centre	9	School	2
Total	99	Total	75	Total	96	Total	67	Total	78	Total	100
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	68	Other	30	Community Centres	37	Private Facility/Studio	18	Calgary Soccer Centre	58	In community	84
School (not post secondary)	13	Talisman Centre	24	Southland Leisure Centre	20	Community Centres	16	Other	22	Other	15
Don't know	9	Family Leisure Centre	18	Other	14	Don't know/Refused	12	Don't know	9	Don't know	1
Woodbine Athletic Park	5	YMCA (no specific facility)	8	Don't know/Refused	10	Glenbow Museum	11	Southland Leisure Centre	4		
Shouldice Park	3	Don't know	5	Family Leisure Centre	8	Wildflower Art Centre	9	Calgary West Soccer Centre	3		
Total	98	Total	85	Total	89	Total	66	Total	96		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	41	Other Community Centres	43	U of C		Other community centres	44	Other	36		
Schools	16	Private Facility/Studio	27	Other	27	Other	22	Southland Leisure Centre	29		
Don't know	12	Don't know/Refused	11	Tennis Academy	18	Don't know	8	Family Leisure Centre	9		
Mount Royal College	12	Other	6	Southland Leisure Centre	18	Churches	6	U of C	7		
U of C	7	Southland Leisure Centre	5	Glencoe Club	14	Workplace (offices)	5	Mount Royal College	4		
Total	88	Total	92	Total	77	Total	85	Total	85		