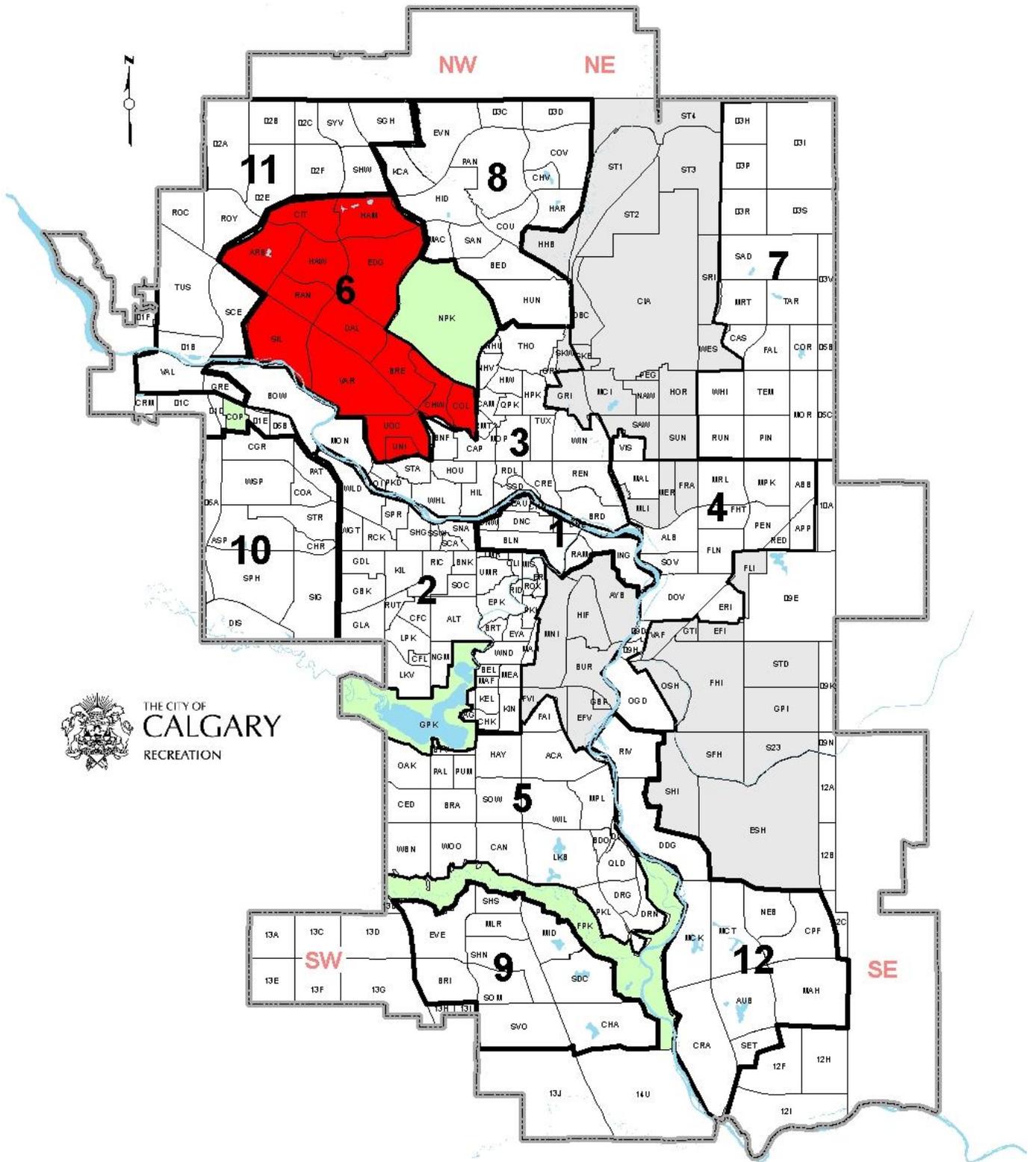

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 6



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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 can in turn 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

Geodemographics

Community Development

Development in Area 6 took place over four decades, primarily between 1955 and 1995.

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 6, the population has remained fairly static in recent years; between 2002 and 2008, the population increased by just 426 residents, or 0.4%.**

City of Calgary planning documents suggest that in the short term (i.e. over the next 20 years), population growth will occur primarily in the inner city and in outlying areas, and those areas that have experienced population decline may in fact experience further decline as a reflection of typical community lifecycle aging. However, in the longer term, increased densification in Calgary is expected to take place in developed communities. The Municipal Development Plan states that The City of Calgary will endeavour to accommodate 50 per cent of future population growth over the next 60 to 70 years within Developed Areas of the city.

Such a projected community development pattern will have important implications for recreation amenity planning in Area 6. 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.

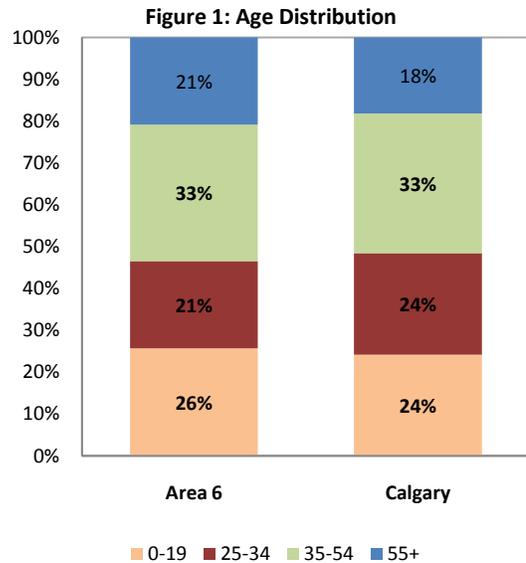
As a result, communities in Area 6 may be in a situation of vying for limited resources when short term figures indicate relatively stagnant population growth. However, Area 6 is comprised of both inner city and developed communities, and despite little recent population growth, may experience both short 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 6, there is a prominence of children and youth and seniors compared to Calgary as a whole. This suggests a higher than average composition of both families with children and retirees in Area 6.

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. In fact, based on the current age profile of Area 6, these trends may be visible here sooner than in other areas of the city.



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.

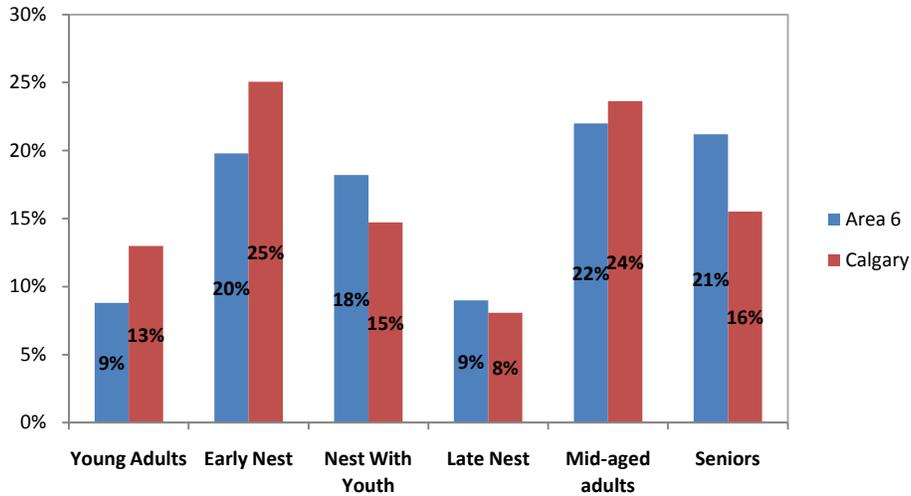
Family Life Stage

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 6 residents are also somewhat different than for Calgary as a whole. Currently, one-quarter of Calgary's population is in early nest households, and another one-quarter are in mid-aged adult households. Notably, Area 6 has a lower proportion of Young Adult and Early Nest households, and a higher proportion of Seniors. This further supports the notion that trends in recreation and leisure associated with an aging population, particularly as reflected in the composition of families, may be noticeable in Area 6 prior to other areas in Calgary.

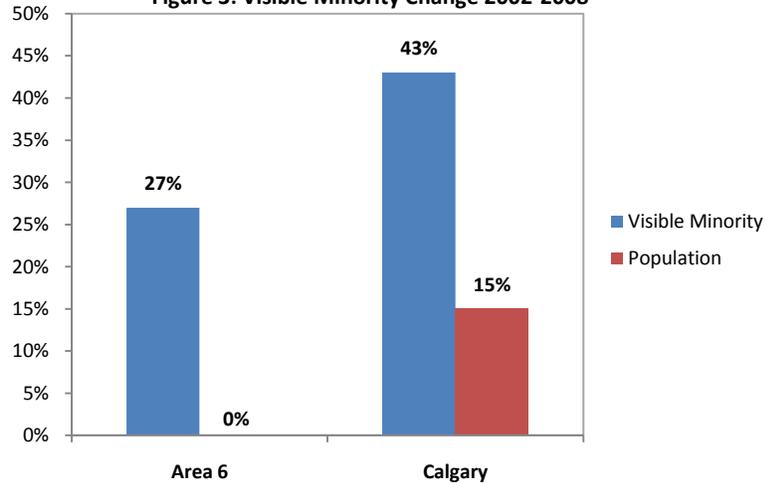
Figure 2: Family Life Stage



Diversity

Not only is Calgary's population growing, it is also becoming more diverse. Data from Statistics Canada show that between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of 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 6, while the overall population remained static, the visible minority population increased by 27% between 2002 and 2008.** This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 6 have changed considerably even in spite of stagnant population growth.

Figure 3: Visible Minority Change 2002-2008



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Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. However, **Area 6 is very similar in terms of ethnic origins of residents to Calgary as a whole. There is a somewhat higher concentration of residents from East and Southeast Asia, and a slightly lower concentration of residents of Aboriginal and Other North American origins.**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 6	Calgary	Origin	Area 6	Calgary
British Isles origins	44	45	Aboriginal origins	2	4
Western European origins	22	21	Caribbean origins	1	1
East and Southeast Asian origins	19	13	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
Other North American origins	18	20	African origins	1	2
Eastern European origins	15	16	Arab origins	1	2
French origins	9	10	West Asian origins	1	1
Northern European origins	9	8	Oceania origins	0	0
Southern European origins	6	7			
South Asian origins	6	6			

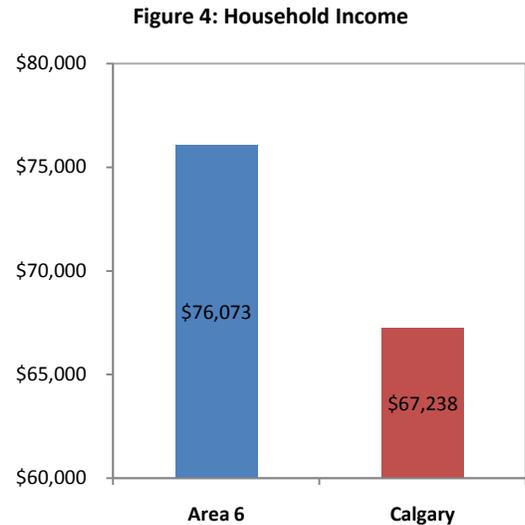
≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤ 3% of Calgary Average

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

Household Income

RAGA found that household income levels among the various Study Areas differ considerably. **Median annual household incomes in Area 6 are somewhat higher – by an average of almost \$9,000 - than for the city as a whole.** The affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in the city is a concern among many Calgarians, particularly those with lower household incomes, and impacts the degree to which they consider themselves involved in recreation and leisure activities.



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 6 were slightly more likely to state that they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with their recreation and leisure activities compared to respondents from all Study Areas combined.**

There are a number of factors that may contribute to the overall satisfaction that Calgarians have with the recreation and leisure activities of their households. The amount and variety of recreation opportunities, the location of opportunities and the condition of recreation facilities, the availability of suitable recreation opportunities and their affordability are all thought to play a role in how individuals, families and communities experience recreation. The RAGA surveys explored satisfaction along these dimensions; Figure 6 shows the percentage of respondents from Area 6 and from all Calgarians who were ‘somewhat satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with each.

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

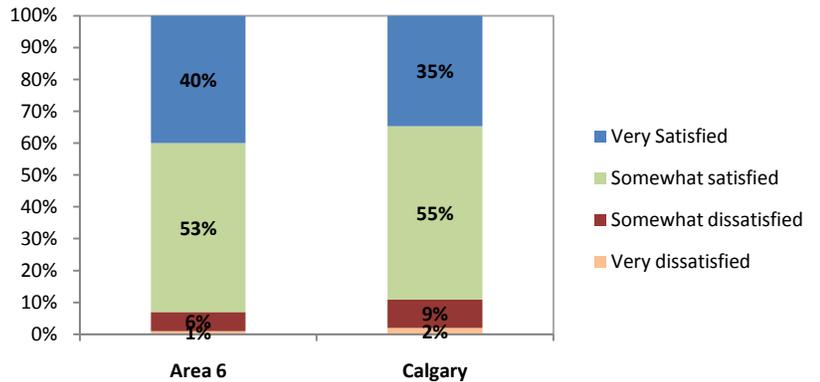
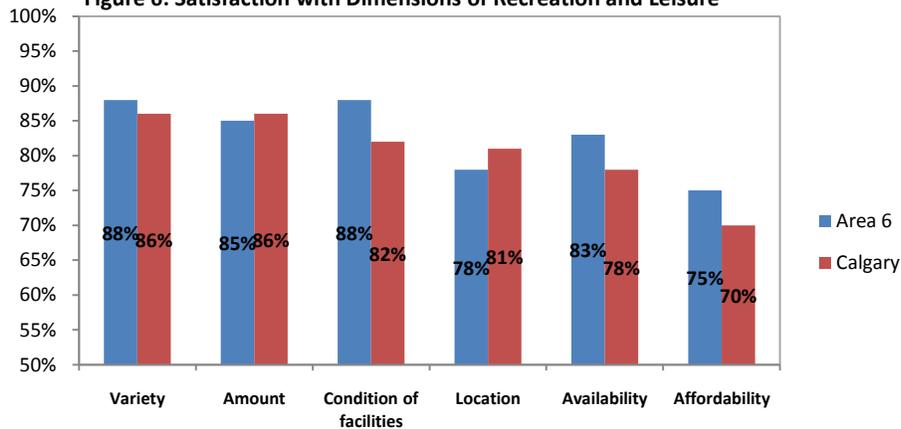


Figure 6: Satisfaction with Dimensions of Recreation and Leisure



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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 of recreation and leisure opportunities, (88%) and with the condition of facilities (88%). Further, fully three quarters (75%) are satisfied with the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities, which is somewhat higher than the rating for Calgary as a whole.

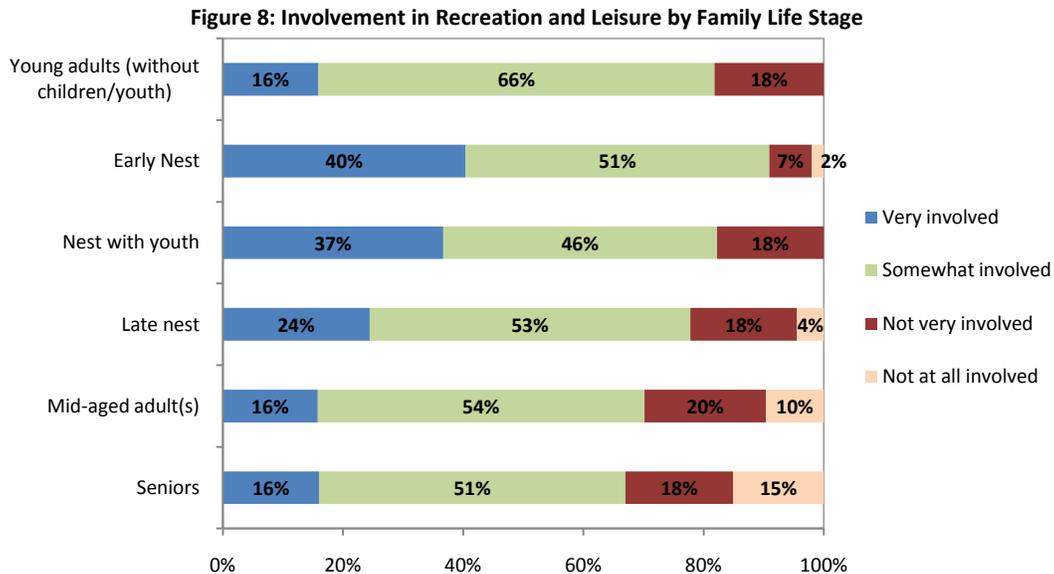
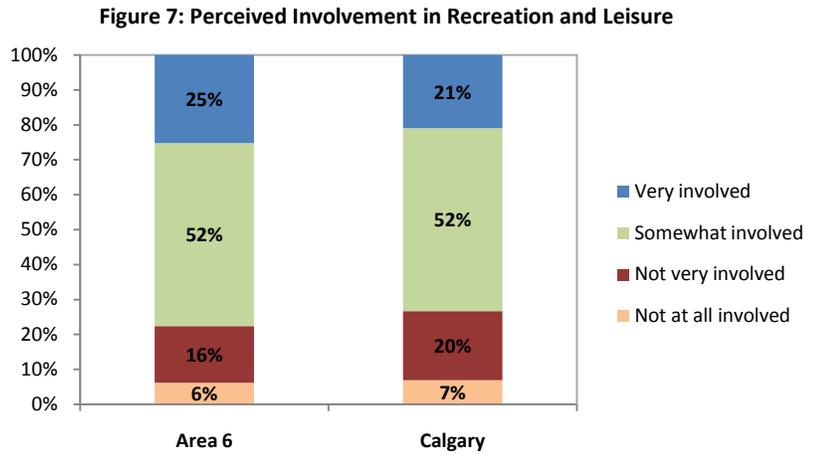
In fact, on most dimensions, residents of Area 6 gave higher satisfaction ratings than residents of Calgary as a whole. **Area 6 residents were slightly less satisfied with the amount and location of recreation opportunities than were Calgarians as a whole.** The planned regional recreation facility in the northwest may help increase satisfaction with these dimensions.

Of all of the aspects of recreation and leisure service provision that were examined, affordability rated lowest among residents of Calgary as a whole as well as those in Area 6. However as noted, Area 6 residents were more often satisfied with affordability; this may not be surprising, based on the demographic profile of the area. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents with lower household incomes are significantly less likely to be satisfied with affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities than households with higher incomes. In addition respondents from early nest and nest with youth households are less satisfied with the variety, condition, location and availability of recreation and leisure opportunities. Finally, RAGA found that for the city as a whole, visible minority respondents are markedly less satisfied with the amount, location and affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in Calgary.

Level of Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

To gain a sense of Calgarians' involvement in recreation and leisure, respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they perceive themselves to be involved with recreation and leisure activities. As can be seen in Figure 7, a slightly larger proportion of Area 6 respondents (77%) indicated that they were 'very involved' or 'somewhat 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 6 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 6 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages. In particular, Seniors' households in Area 6 had a 9% higher percentage of respondents who indicated being 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure than in Calgary as a whole, and Young Adults had an 8% higher percentage. This is noteworthy given the higher proportion of seniors households in Area 6 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 6 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 6 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 6)

Under 13 (n=96)		13-19 (n=72)		20-44 (n=234)		45-64 (n=247)		65+ (n=129)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming – lessons	74	Swimming - for pleasure	35	Swimming - for pleasure	43	Walking for pleasure	65	Walking for pleasure	78
Swimming - for pleasure	54	Soccer - Outdoor	28	Fitness training - workout/gym	42	Fitness training - workout/gym	37	Visiting friends/relatives	45
Soccer – Outdoor	45	Cycling - for pleasure	25	Walking for pleasure	34	Golf	37	Golf	37
Cycling - for pleasure	34	Swimming - lessons	25	Hiking	32	Swimming - for pleasure	36	Swimming - for pleasure	26
Music – Play an instrument	25	Soccer - Indoor	24	Cycling - for pleasure	31	Cycling - for pleasure	31	Books/reading	25
Skating for pleasure/fun	22	Walking for pleasure	21	Visiting friends/relatives	28	Hiking	30	Fitness training - workout/gym	25
Hockey – Ice	22	Skiing - Alpine	21	Running	21	Books/reading	19	Hiking	19
Dancing - Other – Participant	22	Hockey - Ice	20	Golf	18	Visiting friends/relatives	19	Traveling	19
Going to the park/playground	21	Visiting friends/relatives	20	Books/reading	14	Skiing - Alpine	16	Cards/playing	17
Books/reading	20	Music - play an instrument	19	Skiing - Alpine	14	Running	14	Cycling - for pleasure	13
Hiking	18	Fitness training - workout/gym	17	Camping	12	Attend live theatre (not movies)	12	Television - watching	13
Skiing – Alpine	15	Basketball	17	Attend movies	12	Yoga	12	Gardening	12
Soccer – Indoor	14	Hiking	16	Library	12	Traveling	11	Attend live theatre (not movies)	12
Camping	14	Badminton	16	Skating for pleasure/fun	11	Gardening	10	Craft or hobby	10
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	12	Attend movies	16	Soccer - Outdoor	11	Library	10	Attend music concert	8
Camp (summer day camp)	11	Running	14	Hockey - Ice	10	Television - watching	8	Camping	8
Walking for pleasure	10	Snowboarding	14	Attend music concert	10	Park	7	Curling	8
Going to the library	10	Computer - games	11	Yoga	9	Attend music concert	7	Library	5
Computer – games	10	Books/reading	10	Television - watching	8	Skiing - Nordic	7	Knitting/sewing	5
Television - watching	10	Golf	10	Tennis	7	Volunteering	7	Park	4
Golf	10	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	10	Soccer - Indoor	7	Camping	6	Church	4
Basketball	6	Dancing - Other - Participant	9	Basketball	7	Attend movies	6	Aquasize	4
Baseball	6	Going to the library	8	Attend live theatre (not movies)	6	Curling	5	Attend a sport event (spectator)	4
Craft or hobby	6	Skating for pleasure/fun	7	Baseball	5	Dancing - Other - Participant	5	Volunteering	3
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	6	Camping	7	Park	4	Hockey - Ice	4	Skiing - Alpine	3
Visiting friends/relatives	6	Tennis	7	Fishing	4	Craft or hobby	4	Dancing - Other - Participant	2
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	6	Football	6	Snowboarding	4	Tennis	4	Attend movies	2
Martial arts	4	Television - watching	6	Computer - games	3	Attend a sport event (spectator)	4	Yoga	2
Zoo	3	Baseball	5	Gardening	3	Skating for pleasure/fun	3	Board games/puzzles	1
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	2	Skateboarding	2	Craft or hobby	3	Fishing	3	Bowling - 5/10 pin	1

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In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 6 participate in many recreation activities to a greater extent than in Calgary as a whole. Further, data show that Area 6 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 6 as it was for all Study Areas. However, whereas swimming lessons was indicated by 14% more residents in Area 6 than in Calgary as a whole, swimming for pleasure was indicated by 6% fewer residents. Other notable differences between Area 6 and Calgary as a whole include dancing-other (+12%), books/reading (+7%), and walking for pleasure (-5%).

Swimming for pleasure and outdoor soccer were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 6, though swimming for pleasure was indicated by 7% fewer residents of this cohort than in Calgary as a whole. Conversely, swimming lessons were also up in this group, having been identified by 15% more households in Area 6. In addition, Area 6 residents were more likely to identify visiting friends and relatives (+13%), attending movies (+8%) and alpine skiing (+7%), and less likely to engage in fitness training (-6%) than in Calgary as a whole.

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming for pleasure was the top rated activity. Additionally, fitness training is more common among Area 6 residents in this age group compared to younger groups. In general, differences between Area 6 and Calgary as a whole are evident in higher participation rates among Area 6 households. Residents were more likely to visit friends and relatives (+18%) and hiking (+15%) than in Calgary as a whole. Conversely, residents of Area 6 indicated going to parks (-8%) and walking for pleasure (-7%) somewhat less than all Calgarians.

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was most common and was prevalent in all Areas. Table 2 shows that in general, Area 6 residents were more involved in a number of activities than residents of Calgary as a whole, notably golf (+11%) and visiting friends and relatives (+8%).

Walking for pleasure was again the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 6, more so than for Calgary as a whole (+8%). Residents in Area 6 were more active in many activities, including visiting friends and relatives (+24%), golf (+15%), swimming for pleasure (+8%) and fitness training (+8%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 6 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 in swimming lessons, but not swimming for pleasure seems to be more prevalent among residents under 20, while visiting friends and relatives becomes quite prominent in those 20 and over compared to Calgary as whole.

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 53% of respondents from Area 6 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. Still, more than four in ten 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 6	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	67	63
Already participate as often as would like	53	51
Involved in other activities	12	9
Just lazy	2	2
Not interested	0	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
Other priorities/time constraints	14	17
No time	8	9
Work commitments	4	6
Family commitments	2	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	0	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	14	14
Too far away/inconvenient	4	4
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Prices/fees too high/too costly	2	3
Other	2	0
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	4	6
Cannot afford	2	3
Poor health/physically challenged	1	2
Age (too old)	1	1
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know	0	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 6 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). However, with such low proportions of residents identifying specific barriers, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions, though the planned regional recreation centre in the Northwest may alleviate these barriers for many Area 6 households.

Latent Demand for Recreation and Leisure

As a primary goal of RAGA was to identify potential service/amenity gaps, survey respondents were specifically asked if there were recreation and leisure activities that they were interested in and in which activities they do not currently participate. RAGA survey results indicate that 33% of respondents from Area 6, compared to 30% of respondents from all Study Areas combined were interested in one or more other recreation activities that 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 6	Calgary		Area 6	Calgary
	(n= 501)	(n=6,024)		(n= 501)	(n=6,024)
Swimming - for pleasure	4	4	Golf	1	1
Fitness training - workout/gym	4	4	Walking for pleasure	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	3	2	Craft or hobby	1	1
Art class/program	3	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Yoga	2	2	Aquasize	1	1
Music - play an instrument	2	1	Hiking	1	1
Attend educational courses	2	1	Dancing - Ballroom	1	1
Tennis	1	2	Running/jogging	1	1
Martial arts	1	2	Hockey - Ice	0	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	1	1	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	0	1
Swimming - lessons	1	1	Curling	0	1
Soccer - Outdoor	1	1	Courses	0	1
Skiing - Alpine	1	1	Rock climbing	0	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Badminton	0	1
Parachuting	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 fitness training - both facility-based activities - were the most frequently mentioned activities of interest, and swimming for pleasure was reported by fewer Area 6 residents under 20 than in other areas Calgary. Again, the regional recreation facility planned in the Northwest should provide opportunities for many of the activities of interest identified by Calgarians in this Area.

Recreation and Leisure Amenity Use

RAGA demonstrates that Calgarians on the whole expect The City of Calgary to be involved in the provision of recreation and leisure services, and a primary goal of RAGA was to identify gaps in recreation and leisure service provision. To do so, it was important to consider amenity use.

In Calgary, there are recreation and leisure amenities available to all residents, regardless of where they may reside. At a minimum, there are parks and pathways that offer recreation and leisure opportunities at no cost, and these are important and well used amenities among residents. However, RAGA findings suggest that there may be special circumstances in each area of the city that recreation service providers ought to consider in terms of providing recreation and leisure opportunities to Calgarians.

Table 5: Current Amenity Use (%)					
	Area 6 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 6 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	88	85	Indoor ice rinks	30	22
Pathways	77	78	Outdoor ice rinks	27	22
Public Libraries	72	67	Multi-purpose rooms	25	19
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	63	61	Arts centres or arts studios	25	19
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	58	53	Classrooms	23	17
Performance theatres or stages	50	44	Meeting rooms	21	17
Neighbourhood gathering places	47	42	Outdoor Tennis courts	17	16
Playgrounds or tot lots	40	37	Running Track	16	15
Outdoor rectangular fields	36	32	Outdoor ball diamonds	16	13
Gymnasiums	33	30	Indoor rectangular fields	12	8
Indoor ice rinks	32	30	Dance studios	6	4
Outdoor ice rinks	31	29	Squash/Racquetball courts	2	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. For the most part, Area 6 residents use the listed recreation and leisure amenities at 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 fairly ubiquitous throughout the city, are multi-purpose and have no cost. Interestingly, performance theatres/stages (+6%), indoor ice rinks (+6%) and public libraries (+5%) are used by a greater proportion of Area 6 residents.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 6 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 6 (48%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is similar to the city as a whole (47%). Large facilities such as a leisure centre or regional recreation facility were the most frequently identified amenities needed in Area 6, followed by an indoor ice rink, further suggesting that Area 6 residents will benefit from the facility development being planned in the northwest, itself in large part supported by the RAGA research.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)

	Area 6 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 6 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	48	47	Outdoor rectangular fields	2	2
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	10	7	Dance studios	2	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	9	6	Playgrounds/tot lots	2	1
Indoor ice rink	8	9	Outdoor ice rinks	1	4
An indoor swimming pool	7	8	Aquatic/fitness Centre	1	2
Other	7	4	A public library branch	1	2
Pathways	5	5	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
Parks	4	5	Public golf course/golf facility	1	1
Indoor rectangular fields	4	3	Outdoor pool	1	1
A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	4	3	Squash/racquetball	1	1
Gymnasium	3	3	Running track/indoor/outdoor	1	1
A community centre	3	3	Outdoor tennis	0	1
Arts centres or arts studios	3	2	Indoor tennis	0	1
Multi-purpose room	3	2	Outdoor ball diamonds	0	1
Gathering places for community residents	3	2	Classrooms	0	1
More facilities/amenities	3	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 6 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:

- Static population in recent years, though significant development likely in the short and long term, as outlined in the Municipal Development Plan.
- Slightly 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, with the exception of amount and location of recreation opportunities
- Higher than average usage of many recreation amenities

While no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive, the findings suggest that the regional recreation centre being planned in Calgary's northwest will benefit many Area 6 residents by providing the types of accessible recreation opportunities that they desire. In addition, it will be important to consider how the proportionately large senior population in Area 6 at present, together with the aging of Calgary over the next two decades will affect demand for recreation at the community level. At the same time, the densification and increasing diversity in established communities such as those in Area 6 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 6, 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 6**

Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 6 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)		Fitness Facilities (n=291)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Bowness Park	11	In community	28	Sir Winston Churchill Aquatic and Fitness Centre	7	Crowfoot	1	In community	81	YMCA- Crowfoot	1
In community	28	Bow River Pathway	23	YMCA- Crowfoot	2	Nose Hill	13	Other	16	World Health Club	6
Nose Hill Park	7	Other	22	Other	4	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	18	Don't know	3	Other	30
Other	13	Nosehill Park	6	Cardel Place	1	Louise B. Riley	36	Total	100	U of C	7
Edworthy Park	7	Edworthy Park	4	VRRRI Recreation Centre	9	Bowness	11			Cardel Place	2
Total	66	Total	83	Total	23	Total	79				
Neighbourhood Gathering Places (n=235)		Performance Theatres and Stages (n=248)		Outdoor Rectangular Fields (n=181)		Indoor Ice Rinks (n=0)		Gymnasiums (n=167)		Outdoor Ice Rinks (n=157)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Community Centres	85	Jubilee Auditorium	22	Community	72	U of C- Olympic Oval	19	Other	24	In community/centre	70
Other	6	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	18	Other	9	Other	16	YMCA- Crowfoot	19	Park/Lake	27
Parks	5	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	16	Don't know	5	YMCA- Crowfoot Arena	14	Schools	14	Don't know	2
Don't know	3	Other	11	School	4	Crowchild Twin Arenas	13	U of C	12	Olympic Plaza	1
Churches-Misc	2	Stage West	9	Shouldice Athletic Park	4	U of C	8	Community centres	12	School	0
Total	101	Total	76	Total	94	Total	70	Total	81	Total	100
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)		Outdoor Tennis Courts (n=116)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	73	U of C	27	Community Centres	28	Community Centres	16	Calgary West Soccer Centre	36	In community	86
Don't know	11	Other	27	Other	21	North Mount Pleasant art centre	13	Calgary Soccer Centre	29	Other	12
School (not post secondary)	6	YMCA- Crowfoot	13	Churches	12	Other	10	Other	24	Don't know	2
Foothills Athletic Park	5	U of C- Olympic Oval	11	Don't know/Refused	12	Don't know/Refused	10	Don't know	7		
Shouldice Park	2	Talisman Centre	9	YMCA- Crowfoot	7	Private Facility/Studio	8	Cardel Place	2		
Total	97	Total	87	Total	80	Total	57	Total	98		100
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	33	Other Community Centres	58	Other	34	Other community centres	51	U of C	39		
U of C	25	Private Facility/Studio	13	Winter Club	28	Other	14	Don't know	13		
Schools	12	Don't know/Refused	10	World Health Club	21	Don't know	12	World Health Club	11		
Don't know	11	U of C	9	Don't know	10	Churches	9	Other	11		
Mount Royal College	7	Other	9	U of C	7	U of C	7	Winter Club	10		
Total	88	Total	99	Total	100	Total	93	Total	84		