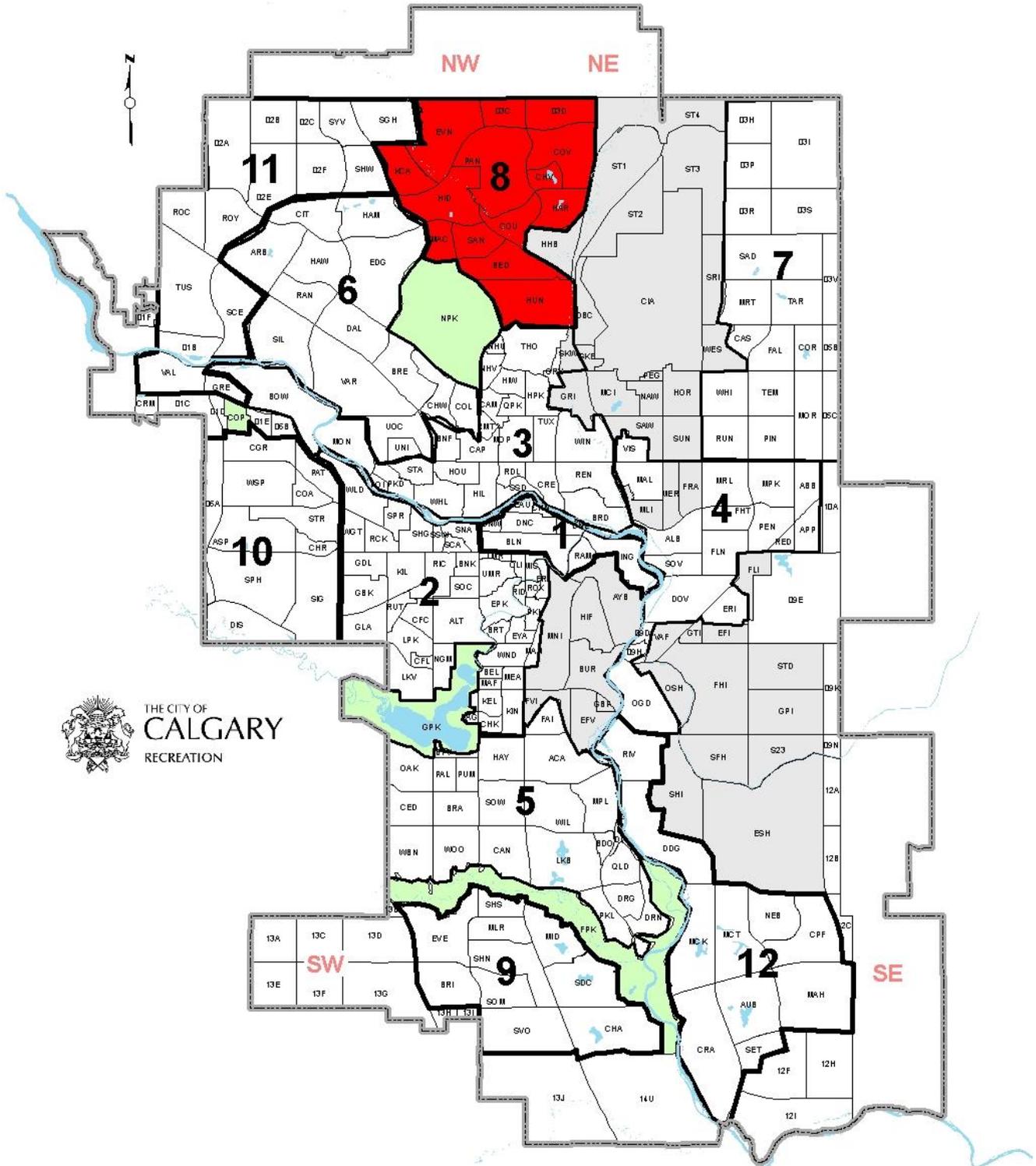

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 8



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Introduction

In 2008, The City of Calgary Recreation was directed by City Council to identify recreation gaps within the city and to develop a business case to address these gaps. Conducted in two phases (Parts I and II) by HarGroup Management Consultants and K. Knights and Associates Ltd, the Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis (RAGA) examined the recreation needs and preferences of Calgarians in twelve areas of the city. These Study Areas were determined to be made up of communities relatively similar in terms of age and general demographics; boundaries were also drawn along natural geographic and transportation lines where possible.

Telephone surveys were conducted with a total of 6,024 randomly selected households (approximately 500 surveys completed within each of the twelve Study Areas). This data was supplemented with focus group interviews conducted with community leaders and various segments of Calgary's population. Additionally, information was incorporated from published reports about recreation and leisure activities, and from various planning initiatives including the Calgary Arts Development Authority, [Arts Spaces Strategy](#)¹, and the Calgary Sport Council, [A 10 Year Strategy for Sport Facility Development and Enhancement](#)².

Results of the RAGA surveys and focus groups affirm the importance of recreation and leisure in the lives of Calgarians across the city. Participants acknowledged the many individual and community benefits of recreation; indeed, 97% of survey respondents feel that it is important that The City of Calgary be involved in the provision of recreation opportunities. By providing a current and comprehensive snapshot of the recreation needs and preferences of Calgarians, the RAGA research can be used to guide strategic planning efforts in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors, and can also serve as a foundation for future research into recreation and leisure in Calgary.

About This Report

This report is part of a series that provides a concise summary of each of the twelve individual Study Areas for easy and convenient reference by interested parties and stakeholders. It is not intended to replace the rich detail provided in the full report, which can be found [online](#)³. Readers are encouraged to consult the larger document for more detailed analyses and conclusions.

RAGA provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of the recreation activities that Calgarians engage in, and identifies needs, preferences, challenges and opportunities for recreation planning and service delivery across the city. However, while the results presented here are representative of the Study Area, they are not statistically valid at a community level. As such, RAGA cannot replace community needs and preference studies, but rather can provide a thorough and relevant context at the Study Area level that in turn can provide general insights into each region, and also guide the development of community-specific research initiatives.

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

² http://www.calgarysportcouncil.ca/images/stories/File/homepage/final_report_sport_facility_strategic_plan_may_23_2008.pdf

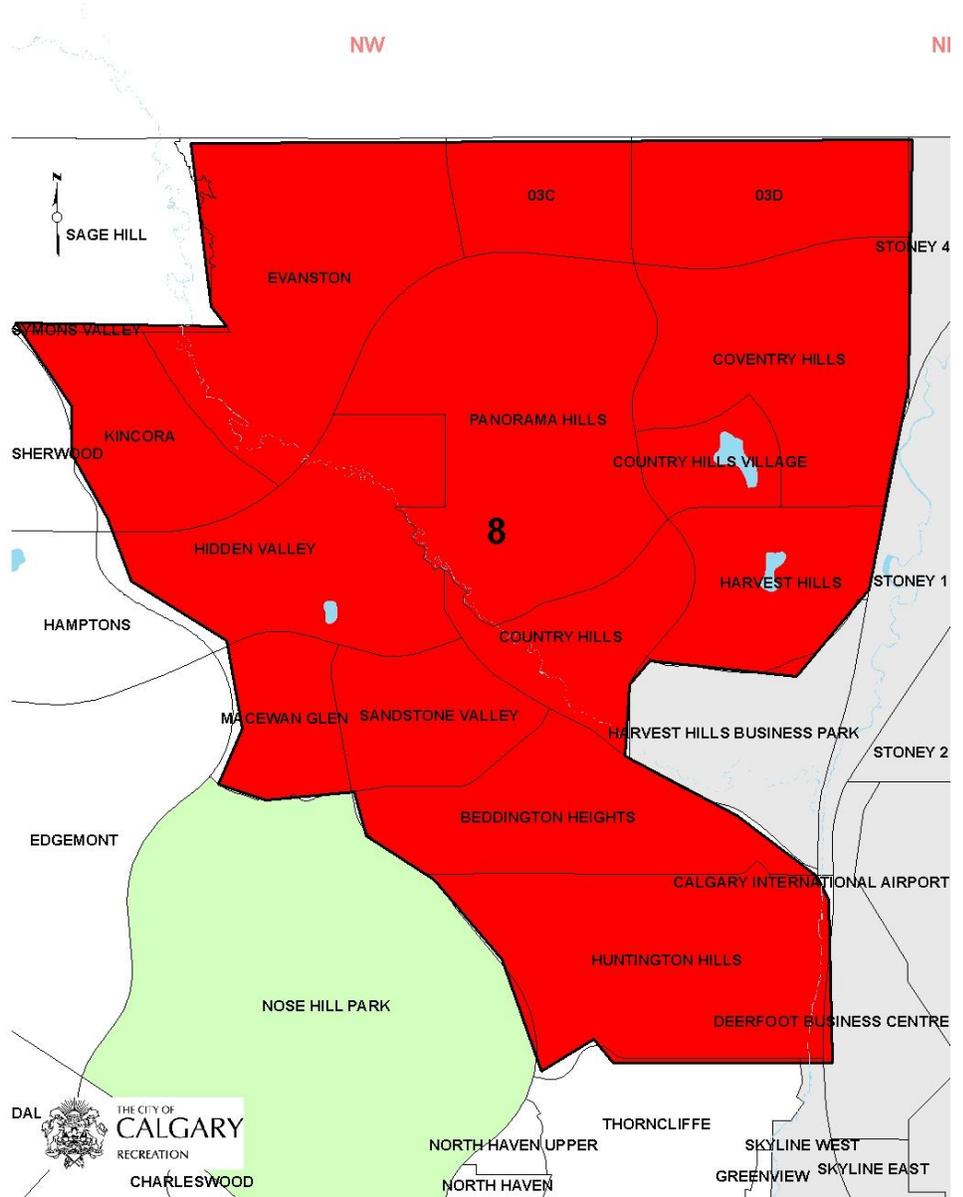
³ http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 8

Area 8

Area 8 is located in the north central region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Beddington Heights
- Country Hills
- Country Hills Village
- Coventry Hills
- Evanston
- Harvest Hills
- Hidden Valley
- Huntington Hills
- Kincora
- MacEwan Glen
- Panorama Hills
- Sandstone Valley



A total of 505 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 97,890⁴, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.35%, 19 times out of 20.

⁴ 2006 Federal Census

Geodemographics

Community Development

Development in Area 8 began in the 1960s, and continues to the present.

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 8, the population has grown significantly in recent years; between 2002 and 2008, the population has increased by 22,503 residents, or 31.0%.**

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 8. In particular, facility investment decisions, both in terms of new construction and lifecycle maintenance may need to balance a number of competing interests: For example, newer, growing communities on Calgary's periphery may need new infrastructure to provide residents with accessible recreation opportunities. At the same time, established communities with existing and/or aging infrastructure may require lifecycle upgrades and/or additional amenities in order to address projected long term growth, even though they may lose residents in the short term.

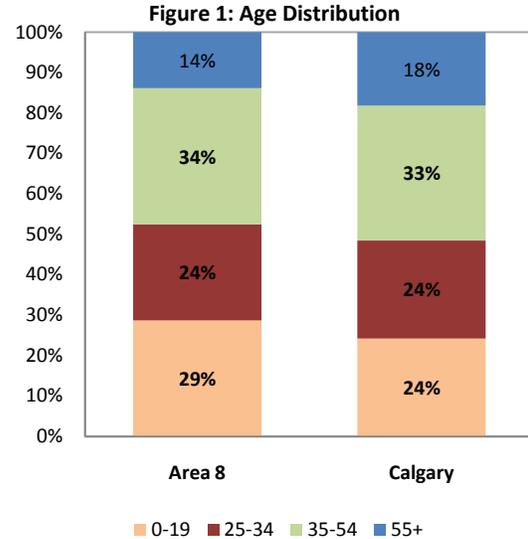
Area 8 is comprised of both older developed communities and new communities on Calgary's periphery, and will experience considerable population growth over the short and long term. This will place pressure on existing infrastructure and may increase demand for new recreation and leisure amenities. It will be important for recreation service providers and The City of Calgary to acknowledge these projections and to monitor community development as it unfolds in this area.

Population growth at the city level and community lifecycles are important and tangible considerations for recreation service planning and delivery in Calgary. Other considerations, such as the aging and growing diversity of the population will help shape the expectations that Calgarians have for recreation service provision in different areas of the City.

Age

Data indicate that there are a number of distinctive age profiles in different areas of Calgary. In Area 8, there is a higher proportion of children and youth compared to Calgary as a whole. This suggests a higher than average composition of young families with in Area 8.

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. This demographic shift may be reflected in changing recreation and leisure needs and preferences of residents in Area 8.



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

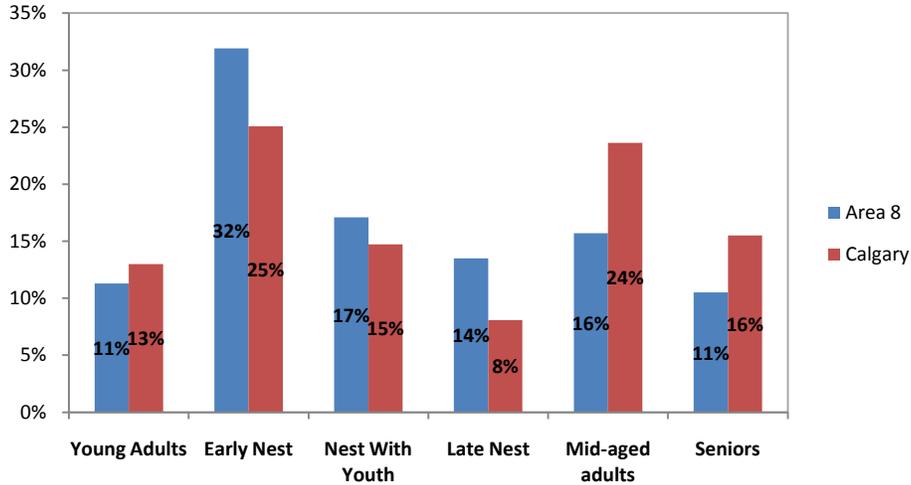
Family life stage is based on the concept that most families progress through a number of distinct phases over time, particularly with respect to household composition (both ages of household members and identified categories of household). RAGA divided survey respondents into six family life stages:

- **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 8

Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 8 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 8 has a higher proportion of Early Nest, Nest with Youth and Late Nest households, and a lower proportion of Mid-aged Adults and Seniors. This 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 8 prior to other areas in Calgary.

Figure 2: Family Life Stage

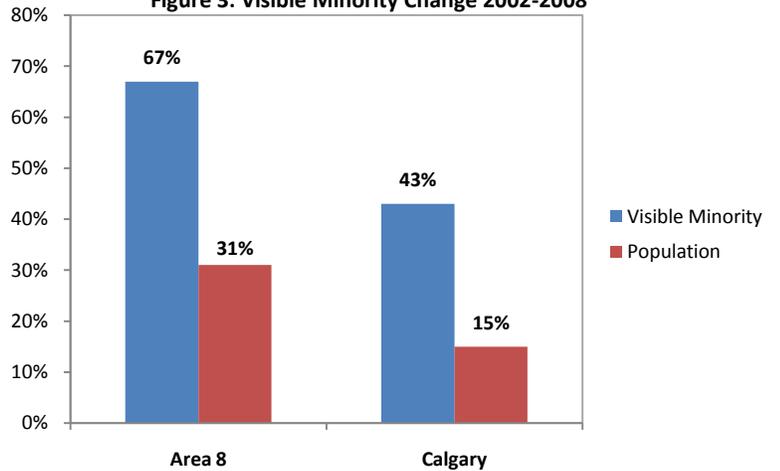


Diversity

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 Calgary's population considered to be visible minorities rose from 19%, or one in five residents, to 23%, or nearly one in four residents. In fact, the visible minority population in Calgary increased 43% between 2001 and 2006 compared to 15% for the population as a whole between 2002 and 2008. **In Area 8, the visible minority population increased at more than twice the rate (67%) as the population between 2002 and 2008.**

This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 8 have changed considerably and quickly.

Figure 3: Visible Minority Change 2002-2008



Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 8

Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. However, **Area 8 is 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 from the British Isles.**

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 8	Calgary	Origin	Area 8	Calgary
British Isles origins	41	45	Aboriginal origins	4	4
Western European origins	21	21	Latin, Central and South American Origins	2	2
Other North American origins	20	20	African origins	2	2
East and Southeast Asian origins	20	13	Caribbean origins	1	1
Eastern European origins	15	16	Arab origins	1	2
French origins	10	10	West Asian origins	1	1
Southern European origins	8	7	Oceania origins	0	0
Northern European origins	7	8			
South Asian origins	5	6			

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

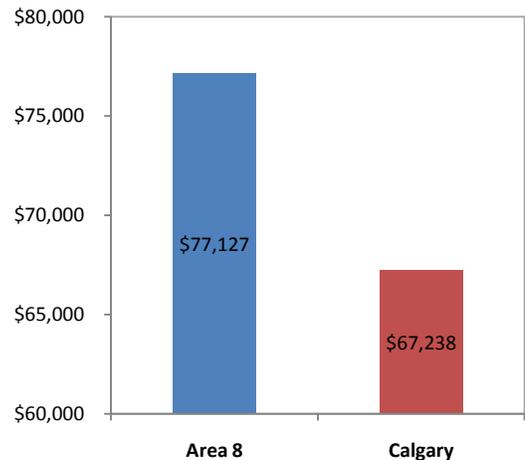
≤ 3% of Calgary Average

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 8 are somewhat higher – by an average of almost \$10,000 - 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.

Figure 4: Household Income

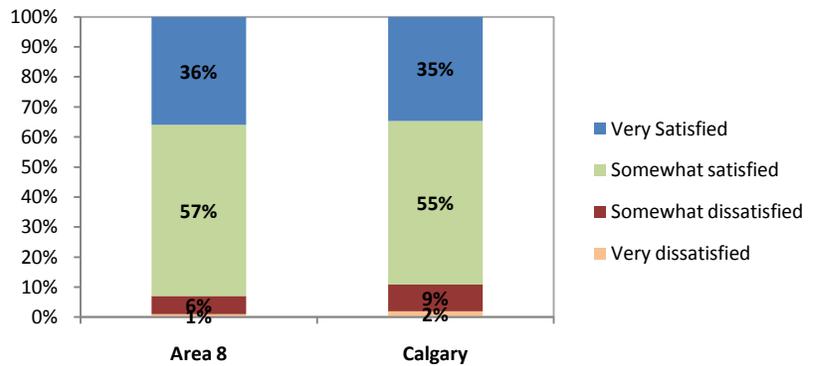


Overall Perceptions of Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

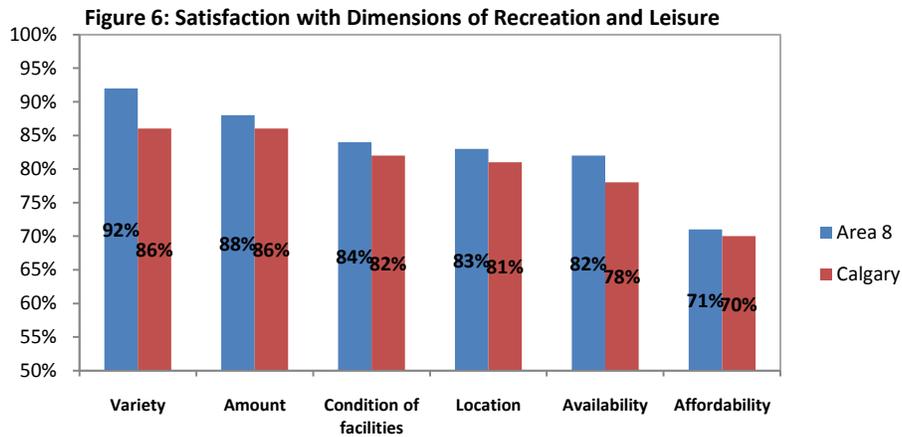
The RAGA survey results found that for the most part, Calgarians are satisfied with the recreation and leisure activities undertaken by members of their household. Overall, nine in ten respondents (90%) stated that they were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with their recreation and leisure activities. 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 8 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.**

Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities



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 8 and from all Calgarians who were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with each.



Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 8

Survey results indicate that respondents are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others. Overall, almost nine in ten respondents indicated that they were 'very satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with the variety of recreation and leisure opportunities, (88%) and with the condition of facilities (88%). Further, fully three quarters are satisfied with the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities, which is somewhat higher than the rating for Calgary as a whole.

On all dimensions, residents of Area 8 gave higher satisfaction ratings than residents of Calgary as a whole. In particular, **Area 8 residents were significantly more satisfied with the variety of recreation opportunities than were Calgarians as a whole.**

Of all of the aspects of recreation and leisure service provision that were examined, affordability rated lowest among residents of Calgary as a whole as well as those in Area 8. 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 8 respondents (75%) indicated that they were ‘very involved’ or ‘somewhat involved’ in recreation and leisure as compared to Calgary as a whole (73%), which is consistent with the higher satisfaction ratings given by Area 8 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 8 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages. However, Seniors’ households in Area 8 had a 18% lower percentage of respondents who indicated being ‘very involved’ or ‘somewhat involved’ in recreation and leisure than in Calgary as a whole.

Figure 7: Perceived Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

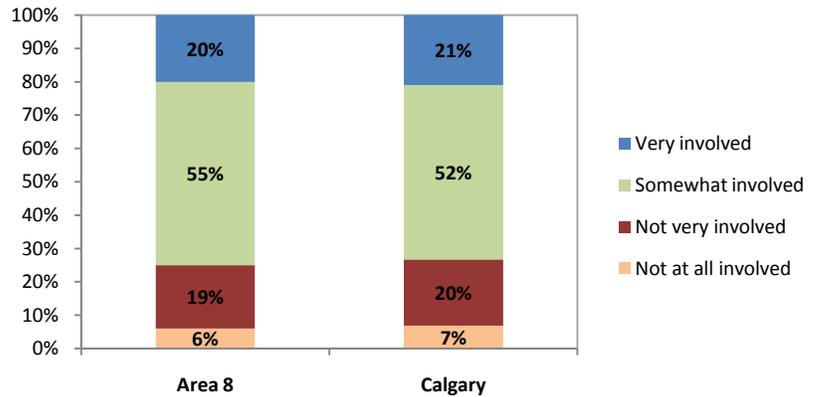
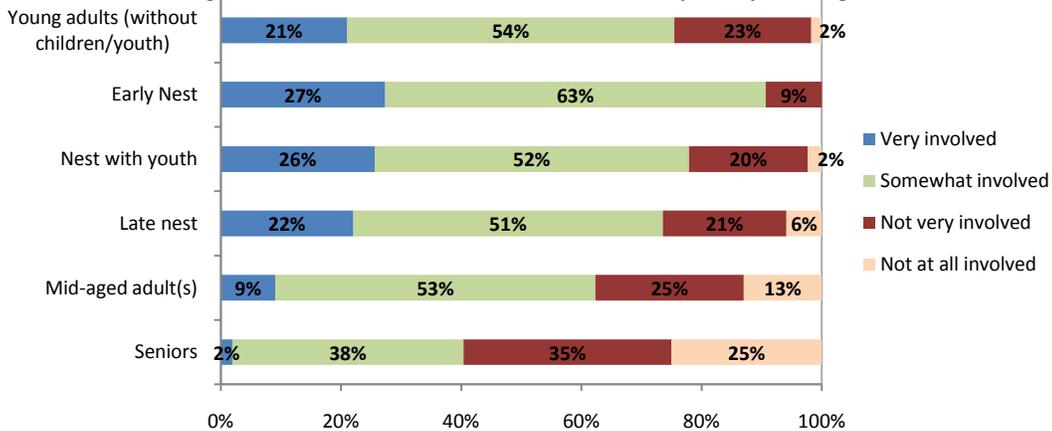


Figure 8: Involvement in Recreation and Leisure by Family Life Stage



Recreation and Leisure Activities

One way that RAGA examined involvement in recreation and leisure activities was by considering the types of activities that Calgarians across the various age cohorts participate in. From this exploration a number of general observations were made, which apply to Area 8 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 8 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 8)

Under 13 (n=196)		13-19 (n=124)		20-44 (n=331)		45-64 (n=234)		65+ (n=76)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - for pleasure	67	Swimming - for pleasure	41	Swimming - for pleasure	50	Walking for pleasure	68	Walking for pleasure	99
Swimming - lessons	59	Soccer - Outdoor	23	Fitness training - workout/gym	41	Fitness training - workout/gym	32	Swimming - for pleasure	26
Soccer - Outdoor	35	Fitness training - workout/gym	19	Walking for pleasure	39	Swimming - for pleasure	32	Gardening	22
Cycling - for pleasure	22	Basketball	19	Cycling - for pleasure	19	Golf	21	Golf	16
Going to the park/playground	20	Badminton	19	Golf	16	Cycling - for pleasure	15	Books/reading	14
Skating for pleasure/fun	17	Hockey - Ice	15	Running	14	Books/reading	12	Fitness training - workout/gym	12
Hockey - Ice	14	Soccer - Indoor	15	Soccer - Outdoor	11	Hiking	11	Cards/playing	11
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	14	Cycling - for pleasure	14	Skating for pleasure/fun	10	Camping	11	Cycling - for pleasure	9
Music - play an instrument	12	Walking for pleasure	12	Hiking	9	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Library	9
Walking for pleasure	12	Computer - games	9	Hockey - Ice	9	Skiing - Alpine	9	Park	9
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	12	Snowboarding	7	Yoga	7	Gardening	8	Bowling - 5/10 pin	9
Soccer - Indoor	11	Running	6	Soccer - Indoor	7	Running	7	Visiting friends/relatives	8
Skiing - Alpine	10	Swimming - lessons	6	Skiing - Alpine	6	Television - watching	7	Volunteering	8
Basketball	10	Golf	6	Books/reading	5	Attend movies	6	Camping	8
Dancing - Other - Participant	8	Skiing - Alpine	5	Park	5	Library	6	Hiking	5
Camping	7	Hiking	5	Library	5	Traveling	6	Craft or hobby	5
Going to the library	7	Football	5	Snowboarding	5	Hockey - Ice	6	Dancing - Other - Participant	5
Baseball	7	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	5	Camping	4	Fishing	5	Television - watching	4
Camp (summer/day camp)	7	Dancing - Other - Participant	5	Tennis	4	Attend live theatre (not movies)	4	Curling	4
Computer - games	6	Baseball	5	Baseball	4	Skiing - Nordic	4	Skiing - Alpine	4
Zoo	6	Books/reading	4	Basketball	4	Curling	4	Attend music concert	3
Books/reading	5	Skating for pleasure/fun	4	Gardening	3	Attend music concert	3	Church	3
Martial arts	5	Attend movies	4	Craft or hobby	3	Craft or hobby	3	Aquasize	3
Hiking	3	Music - play an instrument	2	Visiting friends/relatives	2	Tennis	3	Attend a sport event (spectator)	3
Craft or hobby	3	Visiting friends/relatives	2	Attend movies	2	Dancing - Other - Participant	3	Traveling	1
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	3	Tennis	2	Television - watching	2	Yoga	2	Attend live theatre (not movies)	1
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	3	Going to the library	2	Fishing	2	Skating for pleasure/fun	2	Board games/puzzles	1
Golf	3	Skateboarding	2	Attend music concert	1	Park	2	Attend movies	1
Visiting friends/relatives	2	Television - watching	2	Computer - games	1	Volunteering	2	Knitting/sewing	0
Television - watching	1	Camping	1	Attend live theatre (not movies)	0	Attend a sport event (spectator)	2	Yoga	0

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

≤ 3% of Calgary Average

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 8

While Area 8 residents have a slightly higher level of perceived involvement in recreation and leisure activities, their actual participation levels tell a different story when compared to Calgary as a whole. **In general, residents in each age cohort in Area 8 participate in many recreation activities to a lesser extent than in Calgary as a whole. Further, data show that Area 8 residents participate in fewer 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 8 as it was for all Study Areas, and was indicated by 7% more residents in Area 8 than in Calgary as a whole. Other notable differences between Area 8 and Calgary as a whole include ballet dancing (+6%), going to the park/playground (-9%), books/reading (-8%) and outdoor soccer (-7%).

Swimming for pleasure and outdoor soccer were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 8, at similar levels as in Calgary as a whole. Area 8 residents were more likely to identify badminton (+10%) though less likely to cycle for pleasure (-13%), play a musical instrument (-11%) or alpine ski (-9%) than residents of this cohort in Calgary as a whole.

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming for pleasure was the top rated activity in Area 8 as well as Calgary as a whole. In general, differences between Area 8 and Calgary as a whole are evident in lower participation rates among Area 8 households. Residents were less likely to cycle for pleasure (-9%) visit friends and relatives (-8%) and hike (-8%) than in Calgarians taken together.

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 8 residents were slightly less involved in a number of activities than residents of Calgary as a whole, notably cycling for pleasure (-13%) and hiking (-8%).

Walking for pleasure was again the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 8, reported by virtually all respondents (99%). Residents in Area 8 were more active in some other activities, including swimming for pleasure (+8%) and gardening (+7%). In contrast, there were a number of activities which Area 8 residents reported at lower levels, such as visiting friends and relatives (-13%) and books/reading (-10%) and traveling (-8%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 8 participate are similar to those in other areas, and as shown, though their level of involvement tends to be lower than in Calgary as a whole. In particular, visiting friends and relatives, and cycling for pleasure seem to be less prevalent in a number of age cohorts in Area 8, perhaps owing to a number of separate factors including a possibly narrow conception of recreation/leisure activities, an underdeveloped pathway system, or cultural considerations.

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 57% of respondents from Area 8 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. Still, more than four in ten respondents in this Area indicated that they would like to recreate more than they do currently, and are facing one or more barriers. Moreover, these perceived barriers may represent potential opportunities for recreation service providers to improve recreation products, services and facilities to address some of these challenges, and ultimately provide more opportunities for all Calgarians to increase/maintain their level of participation in recreation activities.

Table 3: Barriers to participation in recreation activities (%)		
	Area 8	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	66	63
Already participate as often as would like	57	51
Involved in other activities	7	9
Just lazy	2	2
Not interested	0	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
Other priorities/time constraints	22	17
No time	13	9
Work commitments	6	6
Family commitments	3	2
Travel a lot	0	0
School commitments	0	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	12	14
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	4	2
Too far away/inconvenient	3	4
Opportunities available too full/crowded	2	1
Other	1	0
Prices/fees too high/too costly	1	3
Nothing organized/available	1	1
Opportunities available do not my schedule	0	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
Social Isolation	3	6
Cannot afford	1	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 8 households – no time and involved in other activities – are not easily remedied through enhancing infrastructure or services. 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 will improve program/facility accessibility for many Area 8 residents, and may make it easier to find time for certain recreation and leisure pursuits..

Latent Demand for Recreation and Leisure

As a primary goal of RAGA was to identify potential service/amenity gaps, survey respondents were specifically asked if there were recreation and leisure activities that they were interested in and in which activities they do not currently participate. RAGA survey results indicated that just 23% of respondents from Area 8, 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 8	Calgary		Area 8	Calgary
	(n= 505)	(n=6,024)		(n= 505)	(n=6,024)
Swimming - for pleasure	3	4	Craft or hobby	1	1
Fitness training - workout/gym	2	4	Hockey - Ice	1	1
Art class/program	2	2	Curling	1	1
Golf	2	1	Dancing - Ballroom	1	1
Soccer - Outdoor	2	1	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1
Cycling - for pleasure	2	1	Attend educational courses	1	1
Baseball	2	1	Running/jogging	1	1
Yoga	1	2	Badminton	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	1	2	Skiing - Alpine	0	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	1	1	Courses	0	1
Parachuting	1	1	Rock climbing	0	1
Walking for pleasure	1	1	Swimming - lessons	0	1
Music - play an instrument	1	1	Skiing - Nordic	0	1
Tennis	1	2	Aquasize	0	1
Martial arts	1	2	Hiking	0	1

The activities indicated are numerous and varied, but in many instances are similar to the commonly reported activities of other respondents. 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, swimming and fitness training - both facility-based activities - were the most frequently mentioned activities of interest. 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.

	Area 8 (n=505)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 8 (n=505)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	84	85	Gymnasiums	17	17
Pathways	81	78	Indoor ice rinks	16	22
Public Libraries	71	67	Outdoor Tennis courts	15	22
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	69	61	Multi-purpose rooms	15	15
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	54	53	Arts centres or arts studios	14	17
Performance theatres or stages	38	44	Indoor rectangular fields	12	13
Outdoor rectangular fields	37	32	Running Track	10	19
Playgrounds or tot lots	32	37	Dance studios	10	19
Neighbourhood gathering places	31	42	Meeting rooms	7	8
Outdoor ice rinks	31	29	Classrooms	3	4
Gymnasiums	30	30	Squash/Racquetball courts	0	16
Indoor ice rinks	26	30	Indoor Tennis courts	0	2

For the most part, Area 8 residents use the listed recreation and leisure amenities at similar or lower levels than do Calgarians as a whole. As in all areas, parks and pathways are the most commonly used amenities, likely because they are located throughout the city, are multi-purpose and have no cost. Interestingly, indoor swimming pools (+8%) were indicated by a greater proportion of Area 8 residents than in Calgary as a whole, while neighbourhood gathering places (-11%) running tracks (-9%) and dance studios (-9%) were indicated by a smaller proportion of Area 8 residents.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 8 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 8 (54%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is higher than the city as a whole (47%). Interestingly, indoor and outdoor ice rinks were the most frequently identified amenities needed in Area 8, while larger recreation facilities and pathways were not often mentioned in comparison to Calgary as a whole.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)

	Area 8 (n=505)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 8 (n=505)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	54	47	Gathering places for community residents	2	2
Indoor ice rink	7	9	Playgrounds/tot lots	2	1
Outdoor ice rinks	6	4	Outdoor ball diamonds	2	1
An indoor swimming pool	5	8	A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	1	3
Pathways	4	5	Public golf course/golf facility	1	1
Indoor rectangular fields	4	3	Multi-purpose room	1	2
Parks	4	5	A public library branch	1	2
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	4	7	Indoor tennis	1	1
Outdoor tennis	4	1	Dance studios	1	1
More facilities/amenities	3	3	Squash/racquetball	1	1
Aquatic/fitness Centre	3	2	Outdoor pool	1	1
Arts centres or arts studios	2	2	Classrooms	1	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	2	2	Other	0	4
A(nother) regional recreation facility	2	6	Performance theatres or stages	0	1
Gymnasium	2	3	Running track/indoor/outdoor	0	1
A community centre	2	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 8 has some similarities to the rest of Calgary, but also has some particular characteristics that set it apart from other areas of the city, including:

- Significant population growth and diversification in recent years; significant development likely in the short and long term, as outlined in the Municipal Development Plan.
- Higher than average household incomes
- Higher than average levels of perceived involvement in recreation and leisure activities, though lower levels of actual involvement in many activities
- Higher than average levels of satisfaction with various dimensions of recreation service provision.
- Lower than average perceived new amenity needs.

While no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive, the findings suggest that the regional recreation centre planned for Calgary's Northwest will benefit many Area 8 residents by providing the types of accessible recreation opportunities that they desire. In addition, it will be important to consider how the proportionately large population of families with children in Area 8 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 8 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 8, 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 8

Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 8 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	%
In community	38	In community	58	Cardel Place	61	Cardel Place	61	In community	91	Cardel Place	47
Nose Hill Park	21	Nosehill Park	20	Thornccliffe Aquatic and Fitness Centre	21	Thornhill	27	Don't know	8	Other	12
Bow ness Park	13	Don't know	10	Other	6	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	5	Other	1	Thornccliffe Aquatic and Recreation Centre	11
Other	10	Nose Creek	6	Village Square Leisure Centre	4	Other	2	Total	100	Don't know	4
Don't know	9	Other	1	Don't know	2	Crow foot	2			Talisman centre (lindsay park)	3
Total	91	Total	95	Total	94	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	%
Other	55	Jubilee Auditorium	24	Community	72	Cardel Place	46	Cardel Place	61	In community/centre	77
Don't know	14	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	16	Other	10	Other	12	Community centres	12	Park/Lake	12
Community Centres	12	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	16	School	9	Thornccliffe/Greenview arena	9	Other	7	Don't know	4
Parks	8	Other	11	Don't know	5	U of C- Olympic Oval	8	Don't know /Refused	5	Other	4
Cardel Place	6	Stage West	10	McMahon Stadium/Park	1	Huntington Hills arena	6	Schools	4	School	1
Total	95	Total	77	Total	97	Total	81	Total	89	Total	98
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	64	Other	n/a	Cardel Place	30	Other	19	Calgary West Soccer Centre	44	In community	70
Don't know	33	Talisman Centre	n/a	Community Centres	20	Don't know /Refused	13	Other	22	Other	21
Shouldice Park	3	Family Leisure Centre	n/a	Other	11	North Mount Pleasant art centre	11	Cardel Place	15	Don't know	9
School (not post secondary)	1	YMCA (no specific facility)	n/a	Don't know /Refused	11	Glenbow Museum	10	Don't know	14		
Optimist Athletic park	1	Don't know	n/a	Thornccliffe Aquatic and Fitness Centre	9	Downtown- Unspecified	10	Calgary Soccer Centre	3		
Total	102	Total	0	Total	81	Total	63	Total	98	Total	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	%		
Don't know	36	Private Facility/Studio	37	Don't know	31	Don't know	30	Other	28		
Other	18	Other	27	Cardel Place	31	Other	26	U of C	17		
Schools	14	Don't know /Refused	18	Other	19	Other community centres	22	Cardel Place	17		
U of C	12	Other Community Centres	13	Winter Club	13	Cardel Place	10	Don't know	14		
Cardel Place	8	U of C	5	Tennis Academy	6	Churches	8	YMCA (no specific facility)	6		
Total	88	Total	100	Total	100	Total	96	Total	82		