

---

**Recreation Amenities**

**Gap Analysis**

---



## Contents

Introduction .....	1
About This Report .....	1
Area 9 .....	2
Geodemographics.....	3
Community Development .....	3
Age .....	4
Family Life Stage .....	4
Diversity .....	5
Household Income .....	6
Overall Perceptions of Recreation and Leisure Opportunities .....	7
Level of Involvement in Recreation and Leisure .....	9
Recreation and Leisure Activities.....	10
Barriers to Recreation and Leisure Involvement .....	13
Latent Demand for Recreation and Leisure .....	14
Recreation and Leisure Amenity Use.....	15
Perceived Recreation and Leisure Amenity Gaps.....	16
Summary and Conclusion.....	17
Appendix A .....	18

## 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 in turn provide general insights into each region, and also guide the development of community-specific research initiatives.

---

<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)

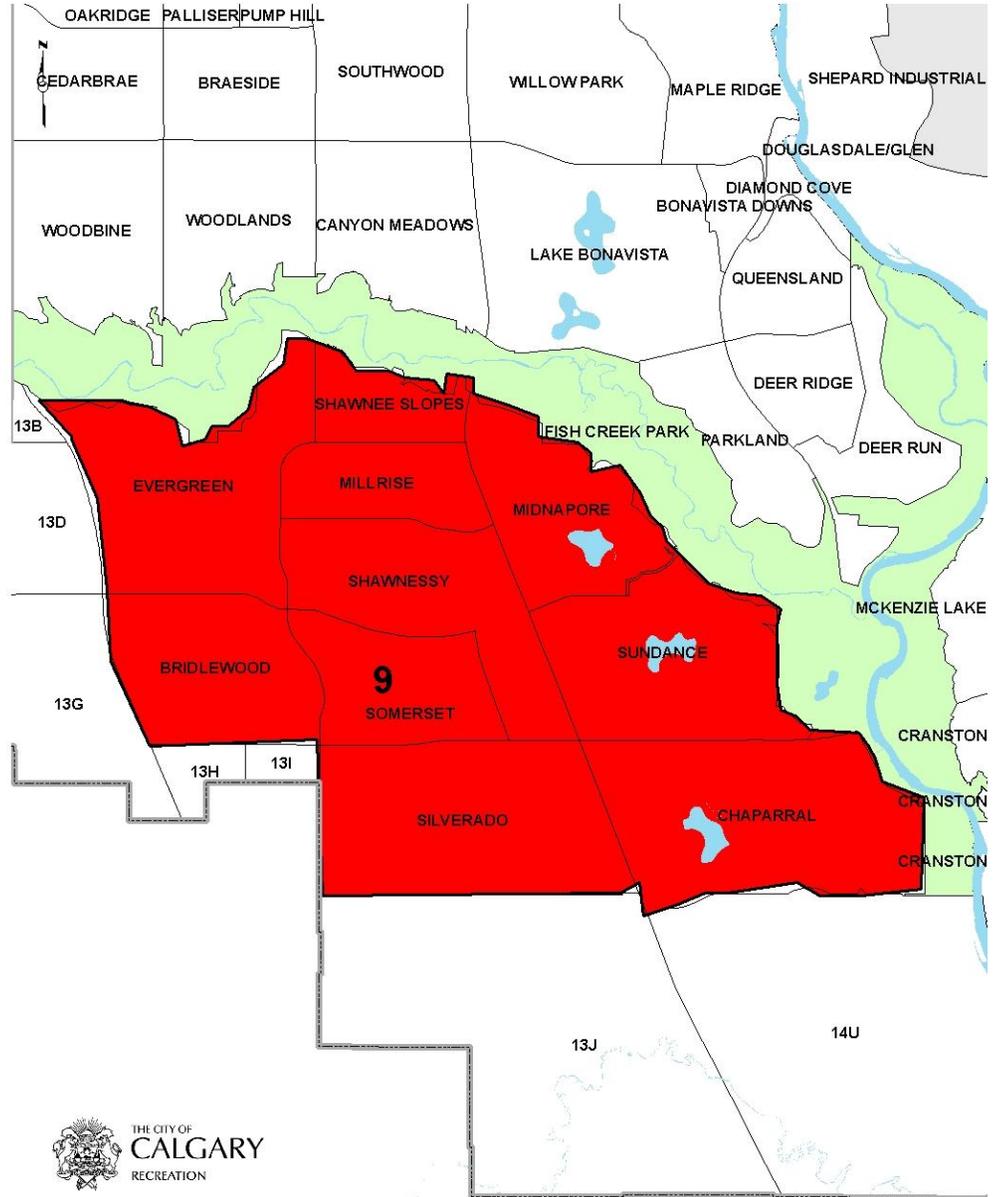
<sup>3</sup> [http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning\\_and\\_policy/gap\\_analysis\\_report.pdf](http://www.calgary.ca/docgallery/bu/recreation/planning_and_policy/gap_analysis_report.pdf)

# Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 9

## Area 9

Area 9 is located in the deep southwest region of Calgary, and contains the following communities:

- Bridlewood
- Chaparral
- Evergreen
- Midnapore
- Millrise
- Shawnee Slopes
- Shawnessy
- Silverado
- Somerset
- Sundance



A total of 502 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 81,922<sup>4</sup>, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.36%.  
%, 19 times out of 20.

<sup>4</sup> 2006 Federal Census

## Geodemographics

### Community Development

Development in Area 9 began in the mid-1970s, and continued the end of the 1990s.

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 9, the population has grown significantly in recent years; between 2002 and 2008, the population has increased by 24,938 residents, or 44.8%.**

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 9. 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.

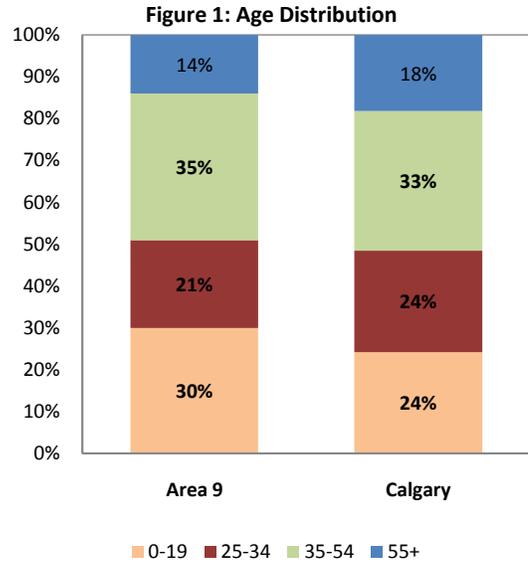
Area 9 is comprised of both older developed communities and new communities on Calgary's periphery, and will experience considerable population growth over the short and long term. This will place pressure on existing infrastructure and may increase demand for new recreation and leisure amenities. It 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 9, there is a higher proportion of children and youth, as well as adults between the ages of 35 and 54 years, compared to Calgary as a whole. This suggests a higher than average composition of families with children Area 9.**

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 9.



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

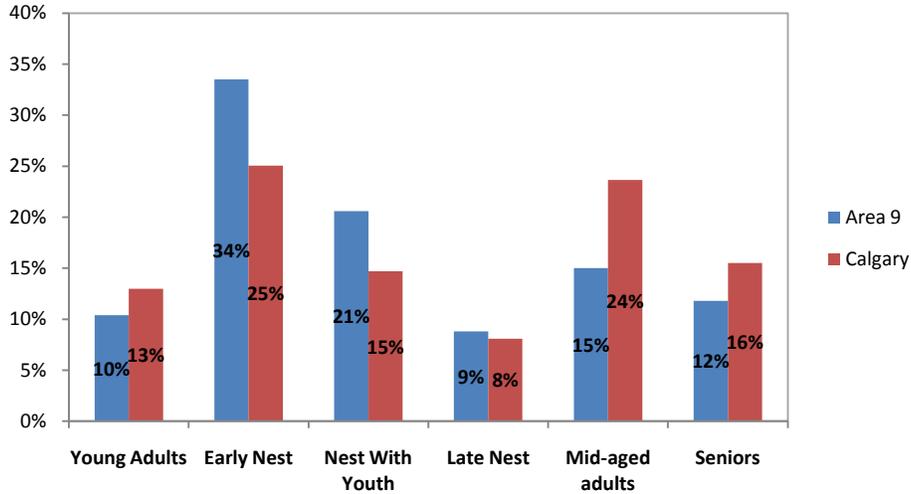
Family life stage is based on the concept that most families progress through a number of distinct phases over time, particularly with respect to household composition (both ages of household members and identified categories of household). RAGA divided survey respondents into six family life stages:

- **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 9

Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 9 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 9 has a higher proportion of Early Nest and Nest with Youth households, and a lower proportion of Mid-aged Adults and Seniors.** This suggests that the recreation and leisure needs and preferences in Area 9 may be family-oriented, and that if the population profile remains constant, some of the changes associated with the aging population may not be felt in this part of Calgary as early as in other Areas of the city.

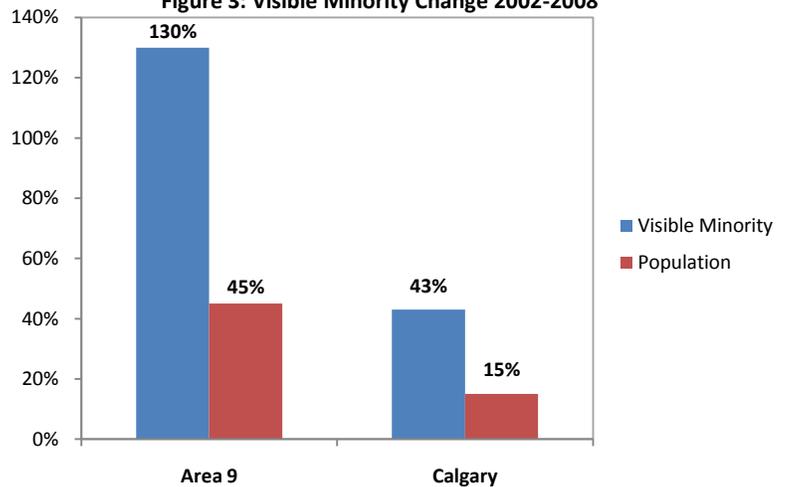
**Figure 2: Family Life Stage**



### 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 9, the visible minority population increased at more than three times the rate (130%) as the population between 2002 and 2008.** This suggests that the demographic profiles of communities in Area 9 have changed considerably and quickly.

**Figure 3: Visible Minority Change 2002-2008**



## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 9

Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. However, **Area 9 is similar in terms of ethnic origins of residents to Calgary as a whole. There is a somewhat higher concentration of residents from the British Isles and Eastern Europe East, and a slightly lower concentration of residents from the southern Asian countries.**

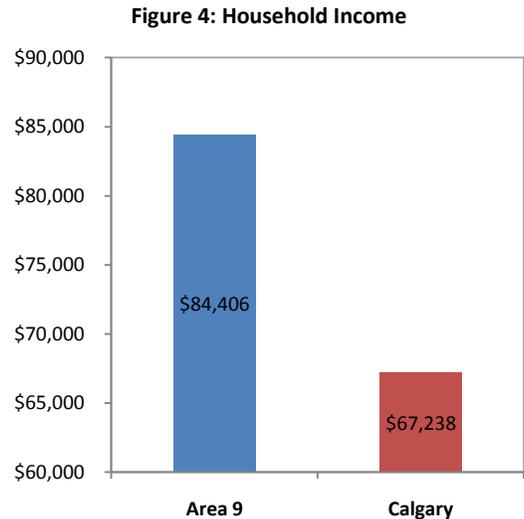
Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 9	Calgary	Origin	Area 9	Calgary
British Isles origins	49	45	South Asian origins	3	6
Other North American origins	22	20	Latin, Central and South American Origins	2	2
Western European origins	22	21	African origins	2	2
Eastern European origins	20	16	Caribbean origins	1	1
French origins	11	10	Arab origins	1	2
East and Southeast Asian origins	11	13	West Asian origins	1	1
Northern European origins	8	8	Oceania origins	0	0
Southern European origins	7	7			
Aboriginal origins	3	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 household income levels among the various Study Areas differ considerably. **Median annual household incomes in Area 9 are somewhat higher – by an average of more than \$17,000 - 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.



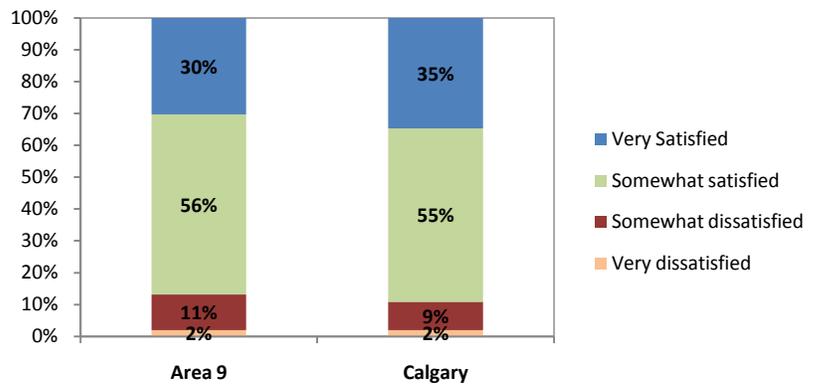
## Overall Perceptions of Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

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.

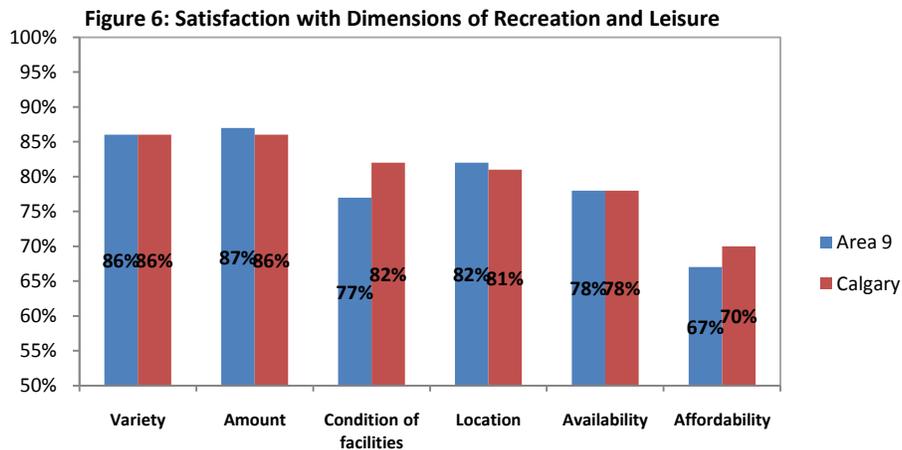
Results from the RAGA surveys show that overall satisfaction levels are high in Area 9 and in Calgary as a whole.

**Respondents from Area 9 were only slightly less 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 9 and from all Calgarians who were ‘very satisfied’ or ‘somewhat satisfied’ with each.



Survey results indicate that respondents are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others. Overall, respondents from Area 9 gave similar satisfaction ratings on most dimensions as were seen in Calgary as a whole. However, slightly lower proportions were satisfied with the condition of facilities and with the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities.

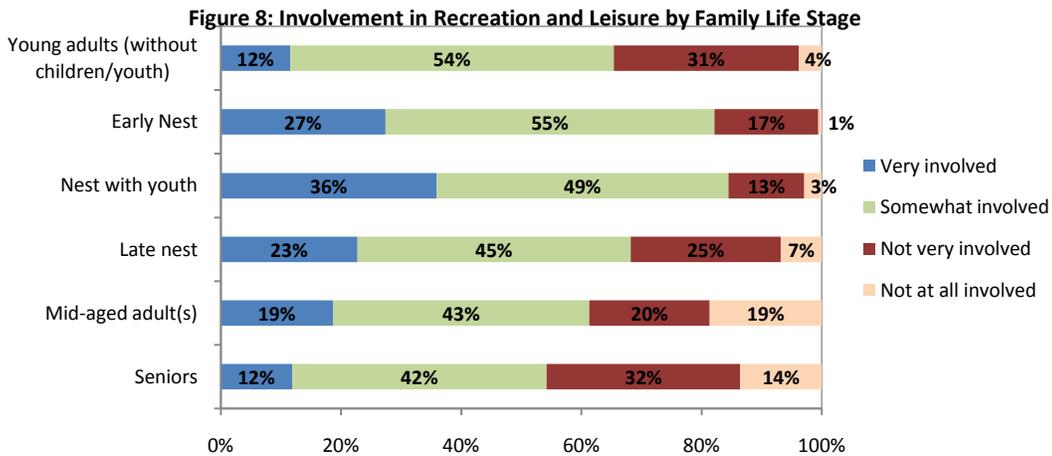
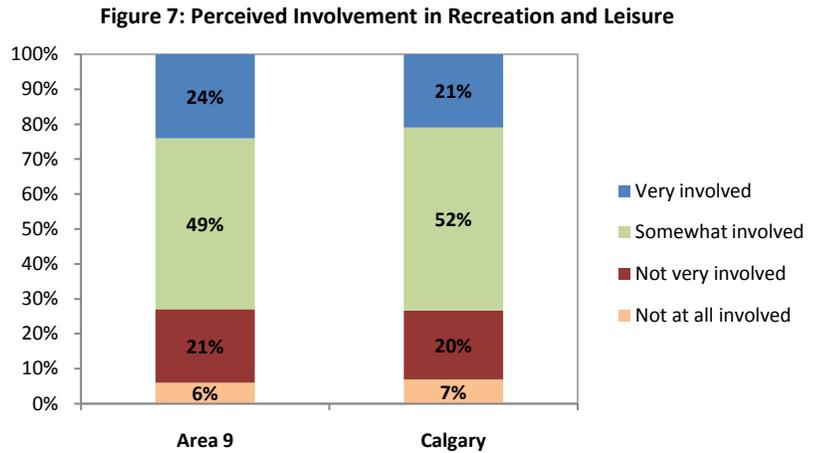
Of all of the aspects of recreation and leisure service provision that were examined, affordability rated lowest among residents of Calgary as a whole as well as those in Area 9. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents with lower household incomes are significantly less likely 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.

Interestingly, while Area 9 residents have higher than average annual household incomes compared to Calgary as a whole, they also seem less satisfied with the affordability of recreation opportunities. This may reflect higher expectations among Area 9 households with respect to affordability, but also the higher proportion of households with children and youth, for which organized recreation opportunities may be more expensive.

## 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 9 respondents (73%) indicated that they were 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure as did Calgary as a whole (73%), with slightly more residents indicating that they were 'very satisfied'. This is consistent with the generally high satisfaction ratings given by Area 9 survey 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 9 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages. However, Late Nest households in Area 9 had an 11% lower percentage of respondents who indicated being 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure than in Calgary as a whole.



## **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 9 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 involvement in recreation and leisure activities reported by residents of Area 9 compared to Calgary as a whole. The RAGA surveys asked respondents to identify recreation and leisure activities in which members of their household had participated in the previous twelve months. While the top reported activities are relatively consistent, there are significant differences in the frequency with which residents from each age cohort report having engaged in certain activities over the previous year.

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 9

**Table 2: Top 30 Most Common Activities by Age Group (Area 9)**

Under 13 (n=182)		13-19 (n=152)		20-44 (n=317)		45-64 (n=235)		65+ (n=77)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - for pleasure	53	Swimming - for pleasure	48	Fitness training - workout/gym	45	Walking for pleasure	66	Walking for pleasure	78
Soccer - Outdoor	52	Fitness training - workout/gym	30	Walking for pleasure	38	Fitness training - workout/gym	40	Golf	43
Swimming - lessons	51	Cycling - for pleasure	23	Swimming - for pleasure	28	Golf	30	Books/reading	25
Going to the park/playground	30	Hockey - Ice	22	Cycling - for pleasure	28	Swimming - for pleasure	26	Gardening	17
Cycling - for pleasure	25	Soccer - Outdoor	20	Golf	16	Cycling - for pleasure	25	Visiting friends/relatives	16
Soccer - Indoor	24	Basketball	20	Hiking	15	Hiking	18	Fitness training - workout/gym	16
Hockey - Ice	23	Soccer - Indoor	14	Running	14	Running	14	Traveling	13
Music - play an instrument	16	Walking for pleasure	11	Hockey - Ice	11	Books/reading	11	Swimming - for pleasure	12
Walking for pleasure	14	Music - play an instrument	11	Skiing - Alpine	10	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Television - watching	9
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	14	Golf	11	Park	9	Skiing - Alpine	9	Hiking	6
Basketball	14	Skiing - Alpine	9	Skating for pleasure/fun	8	Gardening	9	Cards/playing	6
Skating for pleasure/fun	13	Skating for pleasure/fun	9	Camping	8	Camping	8	Craft or hobby	6
Baseball	12	Swimming - lessons	8	Television - watching	8	Park	8	Library	6
Hiking	9	Books/reading	7	Soccer - Outdoor	6	Television - watching	5	Park	6
Martial arts	9	Snowboarding	7	Tennis	6	Volunteering	5	Cycling - for pleasure	5
Skiing - Alpine	8	Camping	7	Yoga	5	Attend movies	4	Yoga	4
Dancing - Other - Participant	7	Tennis	7	Basketball	5	Library	4	Camping	3
Books/reading	6	Skateboarding	7	Books/reading	4	Curling	4	Curling	3
Golf	6	Hiking	6	Visiting friends/relatives	4	Attend live theatre (not movies)	3	Board games/puzzles	3
Computer - games	5	Badminton	6	Library	4	Traveling	3	Skiing - Alpine	3
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	5	Baseball	6	Soccer - Indoor	4	Skating for pleasure/fun	3	Bowling - 5/10 pin	3
Camping	4	Visiting friends/relatives	5	Gardening	4	Attend a sport event (spectator)	3	Dancing - Other - Participant	3
Going to the library	4	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	5	Attend movies	3	Yoga	2	Attend movies	3
Craft or hobby	4	Football	4	Baseball	3	Hockey - Ice	2	Attend a sport event (spectator)	3
Camp (summer/day camp)	4	Dancing - Other - Participant	4	Computer - games	3	Craft or hobby	2	Church	1
Television - watching	4	Television - watching	4	Fishing	3	Tennis	2	Aquasize	0
Visiting friends/relatives	4	Running	3	Craft or hobby	2	Skiing - Nordic	2	Volunteering	0
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	4	Computer - games	3	Snowboarding	2	Attend music concert	1	Attend music concert	0
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	3	Going to the library	3	Attend music concert	1	Fishing	1	Attend live theatre (not movies)	0
Zoo	2	Attend movies	1	Attend live theatre (not movies)	1	Dancing - Other - Participant	1	Knitting/sewing	0

≥ 3% of Calgary Average
≤3% of Calgary Average

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 9

---

While Area 9 residents have a similar 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 9 participate in many recreation activities to a lesser extent than in Calgary as a whole. Further, data show that Area 9 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 9 as it was for all Study Areas, though it was indicated by 7% fewer residents in Area 9 than in Calgary as a whole. Swimming lessons were also reported by fewer Area 9 residents in this cohort (-9%), as was skating for pleasure (-8%). In contrast, outdoor soccer was reported by more residents in Area 9 (+10%), as was indoor soccer (+8%) and skating for pleasure (7%).

Swimming for pleasure and fitness training were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 9, and were mentioned at higher levels than in Calgary as a whole. However, Area 9 residents were less likely to identify a number of activities than all Calgarians of this cohort, including running (-7%) and attending movies (-7%).

In the 20 to 44 age group, fitness training was the top rated activity in Area 9, and was the only activity reported a substantially higher proportion (+5%) of residents compared to Calgary as a whole. In general, differences between Area 9 and Calgary as a whole are evident in lower participation rates among Area 9 households. Residents were considerably less likely to swim for pleasure (-17%) read (-8%), and visit friends and relatives (-6%) than in Calgary as a whole.

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 Area 9 residents were more likely to engage in fitness training (+6%) and golf (+4%) than residents of Calgary as a whole, and were less involved in a number of activities, including reading (-6%) swimming for pleasure (-5%), and yoga (5%).

Walking for pleasure was the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 9, and was reported by a greater proportion of Area 9 residents (+9%) than Calgarians as a whole. Residents of this cohort in Area 9 were considerably more involved in golf (+21%) and somewhat more likely to travel (+4%). In contrast, there were a number of activities which Area 9 residents reported at lower levels, such as swimming for pleasure (-6%) volunteering (-6%) and attending music concerts (-6%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 9 participate are similar to those in other areas, though their level of involvement tends to be lower than in Calgary as a whole. In particular, swimming for pleasure and reading are less prevalent in a number of age cohorts in Area 9. The lower overall involvement in many recreation activities by Area 9 households may be owing to a number of separate factors, including lack of facility/amenity access, 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 55% of respondents from Area 9 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.

<b>Table 3: Barriers to participation in recreation activities (%)</b>		
	<b>Area 9</b>	<b>Calgary</b>
<b>Personal interest/situation</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>
Already participate as often as would like	55	51
Involved in other activities	7	9
Just lazy	3	2
Not interested	0	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
<b>Other priorities/time constraints</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
No time	10	9
Work commitments	4	6
Family commitments	1	2
Travel a lot	1	0
School commitments	0	0
<b>Facility/Program Accessibility</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>
Too far away/inconvenient	3	4
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Other	2	0
Opportunities available too full/crowded	2	1
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
<b>Social Isolation</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Cannot afford	3	3
Poor health/physically challenged	1	2
Age (too old)	1	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>

## Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 9

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 9 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 Southeast will improve program/facility accessibility for many Area 9 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 26% of respondents from Area 9, 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.

<b>Table 4: Recreation Activities of Interest (%)</b>					
<b>(Organized by Top 30 Most Common Activities)</b>					
	<b>Area 9</b>	<b>Calgary</b>		<b>Area 9</b>	<b>Calgary</b>
	(n= 502)	(n6,024)		(n= 502)	(n6,024)
Fitness training - workout/gym	4	4	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1
Swimming - for pleasure	3	4	Attend educational courses	1	1
Martial arts	3	2	Running/jogging	1	1
Soccer - Outdoor	2	1	Badminton	1	1
Yoga	2	2	Skiing - Alpine	1	1
Tennis	2	2	Rock climbing	1	1
Hockey - Ice	2	1	Hiking	1	1
Swimming - lessons	2	1	Baseball	0	1
Art class/program	1	2	Skating for pleasure/fun	0	1
Golf	1	1	Parachuting	0	1
Cycling - for pleasure	1	1	Curling	0	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	1	2	Dancing - Ballroom	0	1
Walking for pleasure	1	1	Courses	0	1
Music - play an instrument	1	1	Skiing - Nordic	0	1
Craft or hobby	1	1	Aquasize	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. The regional recreation facility planned in the Southeast 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 9 (n=502)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 9 (n=502)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	89	85	Gymnasiums	20	17
Pathways	83	78	Outdoor ice rinks	19	22
Public Libraries	72	67	Outdoor Tennis courts	19	22
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	64	61	Multi-purpose rooms	18	17
Fitness facilities with weight training/ cardio equipment	58	53	Arts centres or arts studios	17	19
Performance theatres or stages	42	44	Running Track	16	15
Playgrounds or tot lots	40	37	Classrooms	14	13
Neighbourhood gathering places	38	42	Indoor rectangular fields	13	19
Indoor ice rinks	35	30	Dance studios	9	8
Outdoor rectangular fields	31	32	Meeting rooms	2	4
Gymnasiums	31	30	Squash/Racquetball courts	0	16
Outdoor ice rinks	29	29	Indoor Tennis courts	0	2

For the most part, Area 9 residents use the listed recreation and leisure amenities at similar or higher levels than do Calgarians as a whole. As in all areas, parks and pathways are the most commonly used amenities, likely because they are located throughout the city, are multi-purpose and have no cost. Interestingly, libraries (+5%) were indicated by a greater proportion of Area 9 residents than in Calgary as a whole, although reading was indicated by a smaller proportion of residents in a number of age cohorts.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 9 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 9 (47%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is identical to the city as a whole. Interestingly, indoor ice rinks were the most frequently identified amenities needed in Area 9; the construction of two new ice sheets at the South Fish Creek Recreation Association facility and the potential of ice sheets at the planned new facility in the Southeast could help address this need.

**Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)**

	Area 9 (n=502)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 9 (n=502)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	47	47	Gathering places for community residents	2	2
Indoor ice rink	13	9	Public golf course/golf facility	2	1
An indoor swimming pool	11	8	Outdoor pool	2	1
Outdoor ice rinks	7	4	Aquatic/fitness Centre	1	2
Other	6	4	Arts centres or arts studios	1	2
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	4	7	Outdoor ball diamonds	1	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	4	6	A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	1	3
Pathways	3	5	A public library branch	1	2
Indoor rectangular fields	3	3	Indoor tennis	1	1
Parks	3	5	Squash/racquetball	1	1
Gymnasium	3	3	Classrooms	1	1
A community centre	3	3	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
Multi-purpose room	3	2	Skateboard park	1	1
Outdoor tennis	2	1	Playgrounds/tot lots	0	1
More facilities/amenities	2	3	Dance studios	0	1
Outdoor rectangular fields	2	2	Running track/indoor/outdoor	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 9 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
- Average levels of satisfaction with various dimensions of recreation service provision
- Average perceived new amenity needs, some of which are being addressed in new amenity construction

While no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive, the findings suggest that the ice sheets being constructed at South Fish Creek Recreation Association, and the regional recreation facility being planned in Calgary's Southeast will benefit many Area 9 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 9 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 9 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 9, 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 9

### Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 9 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	60	Fish Creek Provincial Park	63	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	56	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	80	In community	96	South of Fish Creek/YMCA-Shawnessy	38
In community	32	In community	33	Southland Leisure Centre	17	Fish Creek	13	Don't know	2	Other	11
Other	6	Other	2	Canyon Meadows Aquatic and Fitness Centre	8	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	4	Other	2	Spa Lady	9
Glenmore Reservoir/Park	3	Don't know	1	Family Leisure Centre	8	Other	2	Total	100	World Health Club	7
Heritage Park	2	Bow River Pathway	1	Other	5	Don't know	1			YMCA (no specific facility)	7
Total	103	Total	100	Total	94	Total	100				
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	%
Cardel Place	0	Stage West	17	Community	61	South of Fish Creek	48	South of Fish Creek/YMCA Shawnessy	50	In community/centre	54
Westside Recreation Centre	0	Jubilee Auditorium	15	Other	17	Other	17	Community centres	9	Park/Lake	36
South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	2	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	15	School	16	Southland Leisure Centre	7	Schools	8	Don't know	3
Churches-Misc	3	Other	15	Don't know	3	Family Leisure Centre	6	YMCA (no specific facility)	7	Olympic Plaza	3
Retail locations	3	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	14	McMahon Stadium/Park	1	Rinks throughout the city	5	Don't know/Refused	5	School	2
Total	8	Total	76	Total	98	Total	83	Total	79	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	74	Other	n/a	South of Fish Creek/YMCA Shawnessy	27	Private Facility/Studio	21	Calgary Soccer Centre	50	In community	86
Don't know	9	Talisman Centre	n/a	Other	18	Don't know/Refused	18	Don't know	15	Other	11
School (not post secondary)	8	Family Leisure Centre	n/a	Community Centres	15	Other	17	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	13	Don't know	4
Optimist Athletic park	3	YMCA (no specific facility)	n/a	Don't know/Refused	12	Glenbow Museum	14	Other	9		
Shouldice Park	2	Don't know	n/a	Family Leisure Centre	9	Downtown- Unspecified	11	National sport development centre	4		
Total	96	Total	0	Total	81	Total	81	Total	91	Total	101
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	%		
Schools	33	Other	30	Don't know	20	Other	19	Other	22		
Other	24	Private Facility/Studio	29	Other	20	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	19	Fish Creek Racquet And Fitness Club	20		
South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	14	Don't know/Refused	17	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	20	Other community centres	16	Don't know	11		
Mount Royal College	8	Other Community Centres	13	U of C	10	Churches	16	South of Fish Creek/Shawnessy YMCA	11		
SAIT	8	YMCA	4	Southland Leisure Centre	10	Workplace (offices)	8	Mount Royal College	9		
Total	87	Total	93	Total	80	Total	78	Total	73		