

## <Sports Ramps>

<Open Houses and Pop Up Engagement> – What we Heard

December 15, 2015



### Project overview

This project emerged as a result of Notice of Motion 2015-14 on Sports Ramps.

- a) **That Council direct Administration to engage with Calgarians on the following:**
  - i. Confirmation that proposed maximum dimensions of 1.5 meters high X 5 meters wide X 6 meters long allowed for sports ramps on private property is appropriate;
  - ii. Confirmation that sport ramps within the allowable size should be exempt from the requirements of a development permit;
  - iii. Confirmation that proposed new amendments to the Community Standards Bylaw, as part of its comprehensive review, will address excessive noise related to sport ramp activities;
- b) **That, based on its engagement on the aforementioned questions, Administration propose amendments to:**
  - i) The Land Use Bylaw, including but not limited to, sections 344(7) and 564(7); and
  - ii) The Community Standards Bylaw, in order to address excessive and intermittent noise related to sports ramp activities.

When this Notice of Motion was discussed at Council, Councillor Woolley focused on the role of these ramps in providing spaces for young children to practice prior to moving out to the larger City managed sport ramps and recreation facilities. Other wheeled-sports (e.g. BMX, scooter, in-line skate etc) were explicitly identified as sport-ramp user groups that should also be engaged.

As this Notice of Motion is directed at amending bylaws within two different Business Units (Land Use Bylaw - City Wide Policy and Integration; and Community Standards Bylaw - Animal and Bylaw Services), these units are co-managing this project. All engagement activities make an effort to coordinate public engagement and share learning's to the maximum extent possible.

Several other business units have work in progress that helped to identify stakeholders and potential issues for this Notice of Motion.

### Engagement overview

The City undertook a comprehensive engagement process between August and December 2015 for Sports Ramps that included: Pop-up Engagement at Skate Park facilities to conduct a gap analysis of facilities for wheeled sport activities; Open Houses in all 4 quadrants of the City and the City Center to target residents across Calgary; an Online Survey utilizing a fluid survey method; and a Telephone Survey that reached a representative demographic of all Calgarians.

This What We Heard report covers the feedback from the Pop-Up Engagement and Open Houses, *the Online Survey and Telephone Survey results will be published in a separate comprehensive report.*



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### What we asked

#### Open Houses

The Open Houses were held at The Acadia Recreation Centre (240 90 Ave SE) on Nov 10, Winston Heights-Mountainview Community Hall (520 27 Ave NE) on Nov 12, the Alexandra Centre (922 9 Ave SE) on Nov 14, the Triwood Community Centre (2244 Chicoutimi Drive NW) on Nov 17 and the Lakeview Community Hall (6110 34 St SW) on Nov 18. Participants were asked:

1. How appropriate do you think the proposed maximum size is for Sports Ramps on residential property?
2. If the noise associated with sports ramps were within the allowable limit, how concerned would you be if sports ramps were on private property?
3. Where do you think sports ramps should be allowed to be placed on private property?
4. Should Sports Ramps be allowed on private property without a development permit?
  - What do you think the main benefits of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?
  - What do you think the main drawbacks of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?

#### Pop Up Engagement

The Pop Up Engagement visited Shaw Millennium Park (1220 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW) Chinook Park, Kelvin Grove and Eagle Ridge (CKE) Skate Spot (1015 73 Ave SW) and Westside Recreation Centre (2000 69 St SW). It targeted primarily younger skateboarders and their parents through a series of informal conversations intended to explore if there is a gap in City amenities that sports ramps on private property might fill, as discussed by Council. These conversations focused on asking participants:

- Where do you usually ride when you're not here?
- Do you ever ride at Shaw Millennium Park?
- Do (or did) your parents ever come with you to the skate park while you were learning?
- Do you feel there are enough places for beginners to comfortably learn or practice?
- Is there anything else you'd like to share with us?

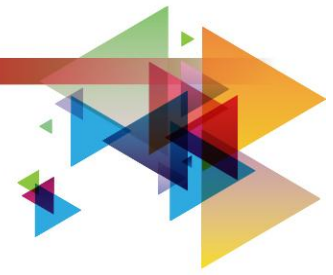
### What we heard

The charts and themes presented below summarize all input received from the Pop Up Engagement and Open Houses.



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## OPEN HOUSES

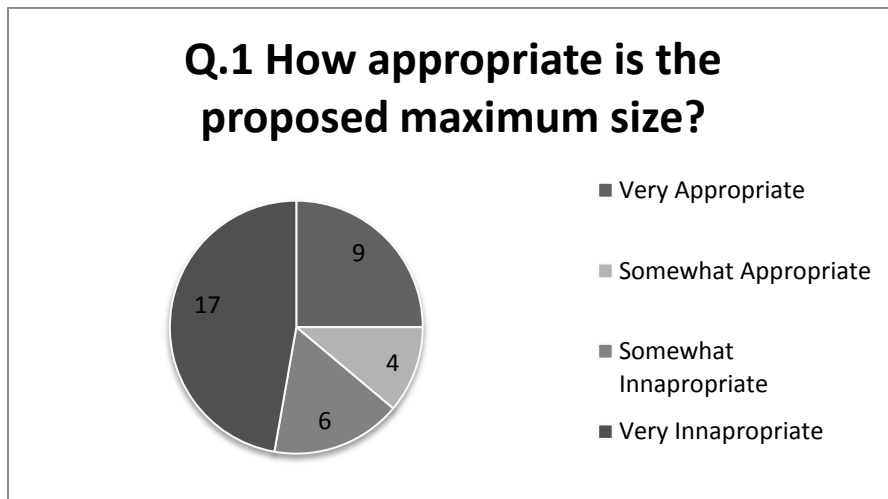
For the Open Houses, information is presented in two ways. Part 1 reflects the numbered responses from participants gathered through a “dotmocracy” exercise where participants used dots to indicate their most preferred option under a question. This information is presented in pie charts as a visual representation to reflect weighted preference. Part 2 is a themed chart that reflects participant’s comments in relation to the questions.

▶ **Total participants at each Open House were as follows:**

- Acadia Recreation Centre – 13 participants
- Winston Heights-Mountainview Community Hall – 0 participants
- Alexandra Centre – 10 participants
- Triwood Community Centre – 20 participants
- Lakeview Community Hall – 5 participants

▶ For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the Verbatim Responses section.

### Part 1: Dotmocracy- totals for each question

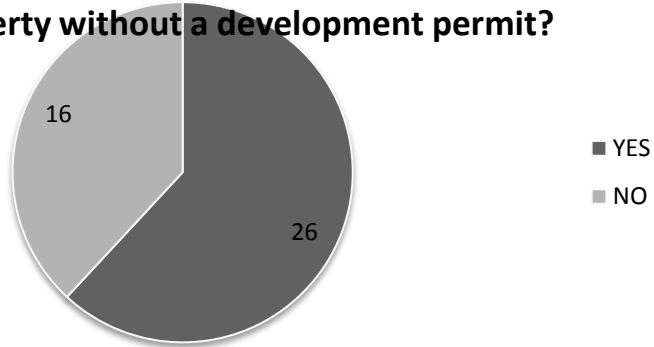


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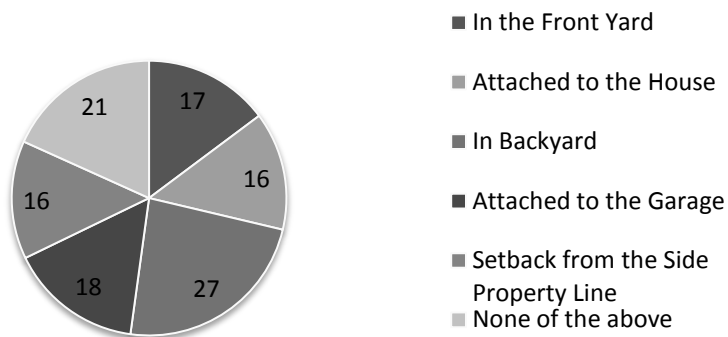
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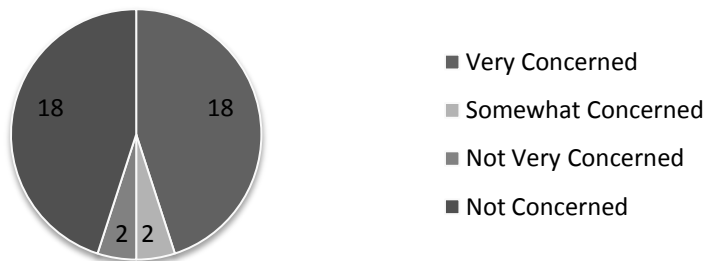
### Q.2 Should sports ramps be allowed on private property without a development permit?



### Q.3 Where on the property should sports ramps be allowed?



### How concerned are you about noise (within the allowable limit)?



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### Part 2: Themed Comments

The following is a themed chart that reflects participant’s comments in relation to the questions posed at the open houses. The project team developed a total of 15 sub-themes out of the engagement activities and these themes were categorized into 5 overall themes that related to the questions (Size, Noise, Placement, Permits, Other). The themes were developed through reviewing all of the verbatim comments for areas of common language, concerns and feedback.

The themed comments are presented in order of questions asked at the Open Houses, but they can also be ranked in order of frequency (from highest to lowest). In order of frequency of comments, themes are ranked:

- Other
- Placement
- Noise
- Size
- Permits

THEME	SUB-THEME	SAMPLE FROM VERBATIM COMMENTS
SIZE	Change the size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Height is good. Length should be extended by a foot or two.</li><li>- Can understand height and problems neighbours would have with it any higher.</li><li>- A small ramp would be suitable (movable) – ramps that could be moved easily like a rail or a grind box.</li></ul>
	Envelope Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- I like it but we should revisit in 5-10 years to see how it is working.</li><li>- 6 M setback is a minimum.</li></ul>
NOISE	Bylaw Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ramps are quieter than the sound of slapshots in backyard hockey rinks.</li><li>- Lots of sports are noisy so why is skate boarding being singled out for a noise concern.</li><li>- How will noise pollution be enforced?</li><li>- Repetitive, extremely annoying noise, even if within the limits.</li></ul>



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	Time Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Noise is biggest concern. If the rule is 10 pm, it will really end up being 11 pm. I'm in bed long before that.</li> <li>- Cut off ramps early (maybe 8:00 or 9:00) so the crowd that uses them is only kids, not teenagers who are not likely to quit at 10:00 PM.</li> <li>- Noise/disturbance, especially after hours.</li> </ul>
PLACEMENT	Ramp Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In front yard you have a liability issue if residents use it without permission.</li> <li>- I think smaller pieces like a grind box or rail makes sense in the front yard, but not a large ramp.</li> <li>- Larger ramps make sense in the backyard.</li> <li>- No gathering of people in residential areas, prefer it to be in schools and community areas.</li> <li>- Some people have small backyards.</li> </ul>
	Privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Max ramp height + decks would encourage using fence top for tricks + sitting, which also decreases privacy. Just build more community skate parks.</li> <li>- Having one next door would limit your privacy. Most fences are barely that height.</li> <li>- They intrude on privacy. Boarders stand at the top of a 5' ramp, waiting for their turn. They all look right over a 6' fence.</li> </ul>
PERMIT	Development Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must keep it as part of the DP process; if get 100% support of neighbours, then OK</li> <li>- Requiring a permit might make neighbours think they should be concerned. No other sport requires a permit.</li> <li>- Issue of reversing the bylaw a major concern.</li> </ul>
	Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The trouble is it puts you in the defensive as a neighbour, if people start to use it inappropriately, because its complaint based.</li> <li>- Bylaw operates on a complaint basis only. How is height going to be checked?</li> <li>- How do you enforce efficiently and effectively?</li> </ul>
OTHER	Property Owner Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homeowner liability and insurance.</li> <li>- Property owner concerns re: value of property.</li> <li>- Don't tell me what I can do on my property.</li> </ul>



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	Recreation for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- This is a positive influence for youth.</li><li>- Parents could have kids at home to keep an eye on them.</li><li>- Creative activities for kids. Keep kids busy and out of trouble.</li></ul>
	Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Safety of kids and collateral damage of anything they might run into.</li><li>- Skate ramps need to have a top railing for safety.</li><li>- Trespassers riding ramp when you aren't home.</li></ul>
	Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Learning new sports.</li><li>- At skate parks kids can be in the way when older kids are there (peak times).</li></ul>
	Healthy Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Free recreation and fitness.</li><li>- Great way to be active and bring a community together.</li><li>- It is great to promote the use of outdoor facilities and spaces.</li></ul>
	Neighbour Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Neighbours don't want to see the ramps.</li><li>- This is an example of how people can continue to interact and connect with their neighbours: community mailboxes, activities in people's yards.</li><li>- Past experiences with disrespectful skateboarders and large groups gathering.</li></ul>
	Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- City could make a ramp builders guide.</li><li>- Sound proof ramps (spray foam joists, carpet backing on ramp).</li></ul>

### POP UP ENGAGEMENT

For the Pop Up Engagement, information is presented in a themed chart that reflects participant's comments in relation to the questions. The project team developed a total of 4 themes out of the pop up engagements. The themes were developed through reviewing all of the verbatim comments for areas of common language, concerns and feedback.

- ▶ Total of 49 participants at the pop up engagements.
- ▶ For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the Verbatim Responses section.



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THEMES	SAMPLE FROM VERBATIM COMMENTS
WHERE I RIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Home, street, school</li><li>- Okotoks or Airdrie</li><li>- Downtown or on street</li><li>- Ride street</li></ul>
AMENITIES FOR LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Shaw Millennium - good variety of terrain and mix of skill level.</li><li>- The street is OK, but you have to be careful.</li><li>- Public setting hard to learn, is intimidating</li><li>- Not enough small parks for learning.</li><li>- If you don't drive it can be hard to find a park.</li><li>- City mobile parks were a really good place to learn, especially because of having staff on site.</li><li>- Shaw Millennium - they have a beginner bowl, easy entry.</li></ul>
PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Until kids understand the rules of the park it's not safe to be there alone.</li><li>- I'm here with my two kids. Can't go out on their own. Too young.</li><li>- Worried about safety.</li><li>- Parents there to support us. Keep an eye and make sure it's a good thing to do.</li></ul>
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Backyard ramps would be great, unique way to develop motor skills and socialization. Keep kids out of trouble.</li><li>- There needs to be more opportunity for kids to learn in a safe environment.</li><li>- Ramps should be allowed as intimidating to learn in front of better kids.</li><li>- It should be made sure that facilities are around for people to use. Reasonable use of ramps in yards should be allowed. We are the only city in North America with that kind of restriction. Not a park in Calgary has a concrete bowl aside from Mills which is really rough.</li></ul>

### Next steps

No decisions have been made yet about the Sports Ramps Notice of Motion. All of the feedback from the Open Houses and Pop Up Engagement have been provided to the Sports Ramps Project Team. The online survey report and telephone survey report are being provided separately and will be added to the project website when available.

By late January/early February 2016, the Project Team will be posting proposed Land Use and Community Standards bylaw amendments on the project page:

<http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/sport-ramps.aspx>. Citizens will be given the opportunity to comment on the amendments before they go to Council.





## Verbatim Comments



### OPEN HOUSES

#### Question 1: How appropriate do you think the proposed maximum size is for sports ramps on residential property?

##### **November 10th, Acadia Recreation Centre, 13 participants**

Height and length seem to be an appropriate size for users

Neighbours wouldn't want it loft, so height is good. Length could be extended to 22ft esp. for half pipe

Height is good. Length should be extended by a foot or two.

If any increase could happen great, but something is better than nothing

I like as is but we should revisit in 5-10 years to see how it is working

Length should be 29ft in length or longer

Can understand height and problems neighbours would have with it any higher

Should be up to people who own property. Why is this anyone else's problem?

This is a positive influence for youth

Height is good. Just length and width that should be extended

Height 8 feet and width double, then extend fence height

We should be able to create a fun and safe space for recreation

Length should be 7X height flat 2X height.

If building a ramp of this dimension, would be unsafe

##### **November 14th, Alexandra Centre, 10 participants**

Would like it higher than the fence

Size looks really good/it fits, looks like it would fit in a typical backyard

Will let kids be creative and active

The height could be a bit higher, like the height of the fence.

You should definitely be allowing this, there are hardly any skate parks in the City

You should be able to use all of the land on your property if you choose to

Reasonable size for kids - can have 1 larger deck on 1 side and 1 smaller deck on another

Social opportunity

All school, 403, Skate Jungle, skate world (Indoor parks insurance)

Skate ambassadors for parks too rules based

smaller decks mean less kids

max ramp session should be 4 hours

As back up, limiting time is OK.

I feel it is inappropriate to tell me what I can do on my property

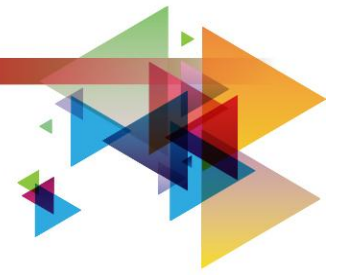
##### **November 17th, Triwood Community Centre, 20 participants**

A skate ramp could fit there. Or even a few smaller ones

Skateboarding is on the rise. I don't want my kids at a downtown skate park with all the alcohol and drugs. A



## Verbatim Comments



backyard ramp would be ideal

I think skateboarders should have their own skate place because at a skate park there are always 3 year olds using the bowls as slides. And I think skateboards are hugely disrespected because 3 year olds would not be allowed (to) run around in a soccer field while players are playing

I think these dimensions are well enough. I've been riding ramps for 30 years and this is a sufficient compromise

If close to fence is too high. (Don't) want my fence damaged or sat on, but agree people have right to play

What about lighting? Will there be requirement for minimum lighting?

I think 5' is too restrictive. Trampolines for example are much higher. I think the maximum height should be in line with other structures

If railing is required, the top of the railing should not be wide enough to have a skateboard

Are development permits required (?) Skate ramps need to have top railing for safety!!!

Max. Ramp height + decks would encourage using fence top for tricks + sitting; Also ↓privacy. Just build more community skate parks

Lack of privacy due to 1.5 meter height of ramps ; Noise level excessive ; This size would fill most backyards completely

Appears quite large on private property; Would fill my whole yard

I don't like the question how big". I don't want these at all.

Too large

Once the full size ramp is there, it will take up a lot of space

Having one next door would limit your privacy. Most fences are barely that height

The increased noise would be bothersome

Far too large. Takes over 2 backyards. Doesn't allow for trees, grass, etc. Only an ugly ramp. Height means people can look over my fence and even my privacy

Retain development permit process for all ; Allow neighbours to oppose

It's too high when people can stand on the lodge looking over the fence. Also, using the ramp would have participants in view over the fence

Skateboarding belongs @ places like WinSport & the Science Centre, not backyards

The community aspect of living together is changed too much. It's more of a permanent structure like a house, vs. something that is particular or used for a limited time

Needs to be larger so we can put dance floor in the middle

Does this need to be disclosed to insurance?

No size is appropriate. I completely object to ramps in front/back yards. Put these in skateboard parks

Totally inappropriate for a backyard

For something this big to be allowed without a permit is absurd when a simple deck extension on the ground needs to be permitted

Users of the ramp would put them above my fence height (5'). Complete loss of privacy & negatively impact my pleasure in my yard

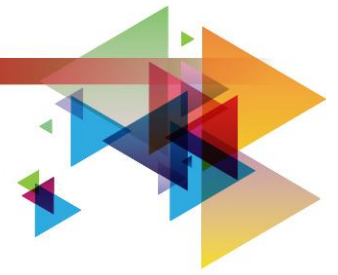
### **November 19th, Lakeview Community Hall, 5 participants**

Size people want for the ramp. Inconspicuous size

Activity (on any size) generates disturbing noise



## Verbatim Comments



Potential for way too many ramps; Annoying reverberating cacophony echoing & disturbing neighbours

### **Question 2: Should sports ramps be allowed on private property without a development permit?**

#### **November 10th, Acadia Recreation Centre, 13 participants**

I like that there are actually parameters

If we don't need a development permit for a trampoline or a play house, why these?

#### **November 14th, Alexandra Centre, 10 participants**

Exercise should not require a permit

#### **November 17th, Triwood Community Centre, 20 participants**

If there is no 'safety' check or requirement, I don't think a permit is needed if ramps are allowed (No if within specified limits)

They should not be allowed at all; a totally irresponsible motion

This is dead wrong - quality of life is lost

NO - without them 2 neighbours doesn't even know about them; Responsible people will get 2 permit and can legally have one already now ; Don't let just anybody build one without any monitoring or enforcement

#### **November 19th, Lakeview Community Hall, 5 participants**

No permit. But tell your neighbours you will have one & make sure they know

Requiring a permit might make neighbours think they should be concerned. No other sport requires a permit

Permit is more expensive than the equipments

If it is permitted, at least it is legal, even if it' still annoying

No ramps in yard because I want to enjoy my yard. Kids playing is okay, but no ramps

Liability issues ; Repetitive, extremely annoying noise even if in the AB level is within limits

### **2.A: What do you think the main benefits of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?**

#### **November 10th, Acadia Recreation Centre, 13 participants**

Free recreation and fitness

Parents could have kids at home to keep an eye on them

Physical activity, positive influences, friendships, new challenges - skateboarding changed my life, it's the greatest!

DP process re: large ramps - if neighbours are good - why not?

Safe place, recreation, community building, team building, mentorship opportunity, all inclusive activity for families, multi-generational fun

Safety of kids and collateral damage with anything they might run into

Great for younger kids who are learning

At skate parks, kids can be in the way when older kids are there (peak times)



## Verbatim Comments



Freedom of play - do we always need structure or schedules?  
Physical activity, get kids outside instead of inside playing video games  
Learning new sports  
Great way to be active and bring a community together  
Fun - being outdoors, being active  
Great for more sedentary people who are shut in and can't do as much  
Good friendly neighbourly interactions

### **November 14th, Alexandra Centre, 10 participants**

This is a healthy activity and should be allowed if people follow noise bylaws  
Fun doesn't require permits  
Creative activities for kids. Keep kids busy and out of trouble.  
Gives people more things to do with friends  
It will stop kids playing too much electronics and get them outside and be active and be creative to build ramps etc  
Encourages people to build things and be creative with their minds.

### **November 17th, Triwood Community Centre, 20 participants**

Kids being active and healthy  
Skateboarding will most likely be added to the Olympics  
I think they should be allowed because if there are no sport ramps, you might as well make basketball nets illegal  
No benefit at all to one's sanity  
↑ activity levels of kids. Don't have to go far to a park  
My children should not have their recreation opportunities diminished because they choose to skateboard  
Some sports activities require specialized activity spaces (Go-Karts, downhill skiing, skateboards); Not appropriate in residential with neighbours  
No benefit at all. As a retiree, is a very poor idea  
Facilitate parents passing on these important skills to their progeny  
Not appropriate on residential property  
Obesity is costly to our healthcare system... Sport ramps encourage a long term active lifestyle  
There are currently very few skateboard opportunities in Calgary  
Increased activity/health. I would agree for a younger participant <12

### **November 19th, Lakeview Community Hall, 5 participants**

Different kind of sport (no coach) when it's on your own property, you can go out and be healthy  
Shaw Millennium park not safe ; On property safe  
Kids are outside, not in front of a computer screen

**2.B: What do you think the main drawbacks of allowing sports ramps on residential property might be?**





## Verbatim Comments

### **November 10th, Acadia Recreation Centre, 13 participants**

If in the back yard, next to the lane, people would be gathering there

Noise

Gathering of large groups of people

Potential 'bleeding' activity into others yards

None

### **November 14th, Alexandra Centre, 10 participants**

Nothing

### **November 17th, Triwood Community Centre, 20 participants**

Privacy; Property value; Noise

Consider in school yards.. fewer residents to annoy

Why are we always forced into perceived as nimby or negative - not wanting change? I resent this as a complaint-driven process

Loss of sanity and I know this from experience

Noise / disturbance especially after hours

Noise ; Possibility of ruining shared fences ; Privacy - not a huge concern

Any building / structure needs a permit for residential - so should this type of structure. Even with permit, need technical equipments for aesthetics / safety

Requiring building permits allows for neighbourhood input

Drawbacks: Lack of privacy; Noise pollution; How will noise pollution be enforced?; A backyard eyesore

Privacy & noise issues with neighbours ; Difficult to enforce violations

Noise issues; Lack of privacy to neighbours; Exceeding the kid density

Safety control

Partying, noise, illegal activities

Need to keep development permit concept for all sizes to ensure community input / property owners affected have input

Noise / privacy ; Time of day ; Enforcement

They intrude on privacy. Boarders stand at the top of a 5' ramp, waiting for their turn. They all look right over a 6' fence

They are ugly (There is no standard for how they should look or what they are made of - ie. scrap lumber); They are noisy. Bylaw doesn't work at night, so good luck if you have a complaint.

Loss of property values

Noise ; Lighting ; Language ; Loss of privacy + peace + quiet

Noise ; Loss of privacy ; Loss of enjoyment to my own space

Poor construction leading to injury; ↓ privacy

No involvement by neighbours in process ; Noise ; Safety ; Property value ; Insurance - we're in sue me" society

Noise is biggest concern. If the rule is 10pm, it will really end up being 11pm. I'm in bed long before that



## Verbatim Comments

### **November 19th, Lakeview Community Hall, 5 participants**

Trespassers riding ramp when you aren't home  
Keep a DP process; if get 100% support of neighbours, then okay  
Repetitive annoying noise, possibly even when inside house  
Homeowners taking on liability without necessarily being aware

### **Question 3: Where do you think sports ramps should be allowed to be placed on private property?**

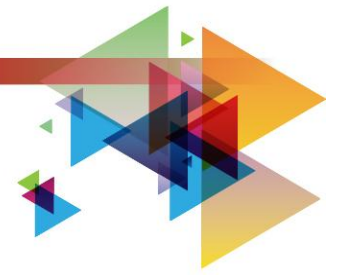
#### **November 10th, Acadia Recreation Centre, 13 participants**

A small ramp would be suitable (movable) - ramps that could be moved easily like a rail or a grind box (X2)  
I think smaller pieces like a grind box or rail makes sense in the front yard, but not a large mini ramp  
It will be more affordable if the driveway is paved  
Rail ramp needs pavement for a safe approach  
Small ramp would be OK  
House could help make ramp more structurally sound  
Space could be saved  
An art and rec installation to the house  
Yes, citizens should be able to have freedom in backyards to do anything they way (X3)  
This would be the best place (X3)  
Safe creative place for kids to recreate  
Biggest space + it's private  
If you allow the size shown than the best place is in the backyard  
Garage could make ramp sturdier  
Larger ramps make sense in the backyard  
Have done it and it works - makes the garage way better  
As long as the ramp is contained on your own property  
There would be interference with sidewalks, you will have skateboarders blocking the front driveways

#### **November 14th, Alexandra Centre, 10 participants**

Smaller ramps for front yards  
You should be able to use the street in front of your house - same as street hockey  
Some people have small backyards  
More structural stability  
mini ramps belong in the backyard  
Sports ramps are no more a nuisance than other backyard activities (trampoline, lawn mowers, etc) so should be allowed  
Should be allowed anywhere on your property except front yard. Grind box or grind rail ok on driveways  
As long as it fits within the other rules, put it anywhere  
Don't tell me what I can do on my property

## Verbatim Comments



### **November 17th, Triwood Community Centre, 20 participants**

Front yard not appropriate as it can be viewed by neighbours and passers-by ; 6' fences are required

In front yard you have a liability issue if non residents use it without permission

Little kids can come on it

Don't want to see the ramp

Safety ; Eyesore

In large parcel yards only ; Minimum of 6m from neighbouring yards/fences

Sitting in my back yard, I would see the skateboarders' heads popping up over the fences. I would lose any sense of privacy

Why would the City get involved in telling citizens where to put a ramp? No one came by to tell me where to put my trampoline, hockey nets, etc

The trouble is it puts you in the defensive as a neighbour, if people start to use it inappropriately, because it's complaint-based

There is more (space) and it could have more (space)

Back yard ; Garage

Backyard ; Garage

6m setback is a minimum

Would not like a ramp by fence - could damage shared fences. People bump into fence / sit on it, etc.

Lack of privacy ; Continual noise pollution ; Unattractive structure

Even large yards are too small for this size of ramps. If ramps were ½ the size, then and only then would large lots be appropriate

Noisy ; Not too attractive when selling ; etc

City already has central facility and buildings and community-based site (CKE, Coventry Hill & Southwood) with plans for up to 47 more over the next 10 years

These do not belong on residential property. They belong in skateboard parks. They would negatively impact me in terms of noise and loss of privacy

This activity similar to other sports that belong to in a dedicated-use facility. Eg. skating, baseball, soccer

Loss of privacy, residential living & property value

I have not seen adequate support from bylaw on other issues such as lawns, noise, etc. Neighbours have to complain repeatedly to 311, and many are reluctant to tell" on neighbours. When bylaw comes out, they give 14 days to do something, but they don't follow up!

My corner lot is different. My outdoor patio and living space backs on to neighbours + it would be noisy

This is not an appropriate structure for a residential property, and would only invite trouble and hardship on those next door

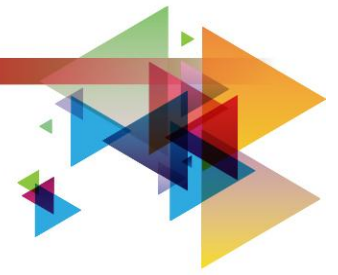
Bylaw operates on a complaint basis only. The onus is on me to complain about neighbours. How are heights going to be checked? What if somebody builds 7' high? I have to complain. Bylaw comes out; they remove 2 pieces, and put it back the next day. If I were confident that there would be great enforcement, maybe, but that's not what we've seen

You have no control of noise and quality of life





## Verbatim Comments



Ramps & ramp facilities should not go on residential lots - they belong in areas adjacent to schools, rec centres, comm halls - areas of public gathering. Nearly all existing facilities in AB are located accordingly

No on every level - Why? Because the costs associated with implementing effectively a by-law in most concerning the effectiveness in judging if one or 20 kids should be okay in use. The costs related to enforcement & possibly projecting a court date - is neither reasonable or (ration-able) to think this would be acceptable to the tax payer

### **November 19th, Lakeview Community Hall, 5 participants**

Front OK. As long as there is some way to secure from 'passers by'. Box OK. Secure half pipe  
Anywhere on the property generates an uncontained disturbing noise  
Noise issues wherever they are; May even affect neighbours while they are in their homes

### **Question 4: If the noise associated with sports ramps were within the allowable limit, how concerned would you be if sports ramps were on private property?**

### **November 10th, Acadia Recreation Centre, 13 participants**

Neighbourhoods changing - lots of turnover, lots of density, illegal suits are already a problem  
Past experiences with disrespectful skateboarders large group issue - ramp left in the lane was an issue  
Noise of skateboards on sidewalks is sometime very loud  
Ramps are quieter than the sound of slap shots in backyard hockey rinks  
If you are sticking by the bylaw, I don't know what the problem is  
The sound of people having fun is the best (X2)  
It is great to promote the use of outdoor facilities and spaces.  
This is an example of how people can continue to interact and connect with their neighbours: community mailboxes, activities in people's yards  
Lots of sports are noisy so why is skateboarding singled out for a noise concern  
I have a trampoline and it's pretty noisy  
I am not concerned because if it's within the allowable limit why should anyone restrict someone.  
Construction slows, building anything is way louder, why would I worry?  
Noise bylaws should take care of any issues  
Length of ramp size should be extended. Why is the City putting limits to this?  
What about run up space? Does that need to fit in the box?  
No gathering of people in residential areas, prefer it to be in schools and community areas

### **November 14th, Alexandra Centre, 10 participants**

The current by-law is fair  
Current restrictions are good  
Traffic is louder  
It's no different than people doing other activities (e.g. campfire)





## Verbatim Comments



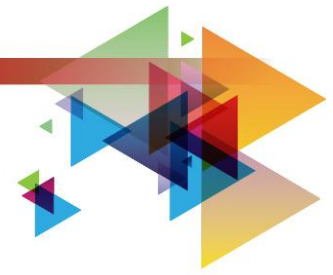
As long as it's within the rules, there should be no other restrictions  
No different than other noise issues (trampolines, bbq's, lawn mowers, etc)  
Boxing a ramp can create an echo but can also be a barrier for noise  
City could make a ramp builders guide - go to [rampplans.org](http://rampplans.org) for suggestions  
Sound proof ramps (spray foam joints, coping, carpet backing on ramp, boxed in decks)  
Screw holes in the top coping metal pipe and fill it with spray foam to dull the noise and then put steel wool in each end to keep mice out.  
Also put spray foam and carpeted on the underside of the ramp  
Use screws instead of nails so it doesn't loosen which is noisy

### **November 17th, Triwood Community Centre, 20 participants**

What if there is repeatedly no compliance with the rules? How likely is it to remove a ramp? What penalties or fines could be levied?  
Enforcement challenges! Community standards bylaw is not enforced no unless there are 311. Who wants to call and complain on their neighbours?  
You have no control of noise. Absurd!  
Property owner - concerns re: value of property  
Had a ramp next door. Noise from the activity was horrible. Safety issues.  
What about insurance? Had ramp next door, was very loud at night.  
Enforcement - who is going to enforce - CPS?  
City can't enforce noise on major roadways (motorcycles) - how will this be enforced?  
In a perfect world neighbours are respectful re: noise. I'd be concerned about hearing ramp noise for hours while trying to enjoy the outdoors  
Noise - 10 PM is too late. If there is noise at night, bylaw doesn't work anyway  
10:00 PM is generally too late - 8:00 or 9:00 would be more appropriate  
Noise levels especially multiply ramps will be an issue and thus cause concern for several neighbourhoods  
Background noise is critical in establishing decibels that are acceptable. 65 db @ night in a quiet residential neighbourhood is too loud w/ noise impact  
What is the noise produced by skateboard/sports ramps? Need the noise level information to make an informed decision.  
Decibel levels and number of people  
Value of home being lowered  
Issue of reversing bylaw a major concern  
Without noise level info, cannot support  
I don't mind if parents have to take their kids somewhere else to play that's what I did with my kids  
Bylaw can't enforce after hours  
Cut off ramps early (maybe 8:00 or 9:00) so that the crowd that uses them is only kids, not teenagers who are not likely to quit at 10:00 PM  
I wouldn't support this  
Skateboarding is an activity best located in a skateboard park - not in back/front yards



## Verbatim Comments



This would be an atrocity for neighbours living next door, and my husband and I have already experienced this a few years ago. We had constant noise from morning till 3:00 AM most nights and no use of our backyard for one whole summer. No rest or peace and often our driveway was blocked. Foul language was an everyday occurrence and it took bylaw 6 months to get this ramp removed.

How do you enforce effectively and efficiently? What is the cost?

This forces us into position of complaining, being perceived as not a good neighbour. My preference is to have skateboard ramps for kids.

This would be very noisy and intrusive to me in my backyard. Noise from 1 backyard cannot be contained within their own yard. It travels easily 3 more houses E-W and N-S

Decibel levels are too high and dependant on background noise

Past performance of City with respect to activity on illegal ramps suggests can't enforce

It's not the ramp noise that will be the problem it's the people noise associated with it

Noise enforcement is a problem. American Skateboard association standards.

Homeowner liability and insurance

City should focus on skate parks that are supported by American skateboard associations.

Generally no bylaw officers will be available to respond to complaints during main activity hours.

Many recreation opportunities create noise, there is no reason to single out 1 form of recreation.

### **November 19th, Lakeview Community Hall, 5 participants**

Can go on for any length of time

Times - late at night is not appropriate

Police have a lot of other things to respond to, after bylaw stops responding, police won't come for ramps

Must keep it as part of the DP process!!! Only if 100% agreement from neighbours; Grating noise possibly even inside; Continuous and repetitive

Repetitive noise from use of a skateboard ; Distracting to people sitting inside in their homes

Find noise from skateboards very intrusive, slamming banging noise. Have no idea how long the noise is going to go on. How is this going to be enforced?

Somewhat curious to noise abatement & measurements

Should be within limits of noise and that's okay

Skateboarding shouldn't be regulated differently than other sports

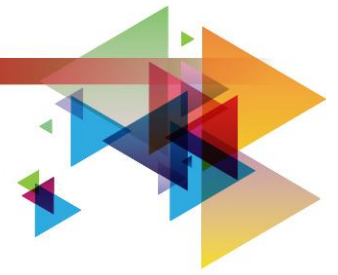
## POP UP ENGAGEMENT

### What location did you take this survey?

Response	Percentage	Count
CKE Skatepark (Chinook Park, Kelvin Grove and Eagle Ridge)	14%	7
Westside Recreation Centre	22%	11
Shaw Millennium Park	63%	31
		<b>49</b>



## Verbatim Comments



### How old are you?

Response	Percentage	Count
4-6	4%	2
7-9	2%	1
10-12	10%	5
13-15	35%	17
16-18	20%	10
19+	29%	14
		<b>49</b>

### Which of the following do you use most often?

Response	Percentage	Count
Skateboard	65%	32
Longboard	4%	2
Scooter	8%	4
BMX	18%	9
In-line skates	0%	0
Other, please specify...	4%	2
		<b>49</b>

### How would you rank your skill level?

Response	Percentage	Count
Beginner	19%	9
Intermediate	64%	30
Advanced	17%	8
		<b>47</b>

### Where do you usually ride when you're not here?

**Response**  
Home, street, school  
Okotoks or Airdrie  
Dalhousie  
Mills only  
Around my house, in the street  
Street. Parking lots  
At home and at my grandmas. On the street, practicing jumps and stuff.  
River valley and street  
Royal oak and varsity hills



## Verbatim Comments



Pathways. Away from cars  
Ride street  
Nowhere  
Streets, downtown  
West side. In community rink. In community in general.  
Street in community. Use own equipment that build on street  
At home  
In community  
On the streets  
Streets.  
West side. CKE, woodbine.  
Cochrane park  
Downtown or on street  
Downtown street  
Friends bowl in backyard  
Cochrane skateboard  
Downtown streets  
Cop  
Street or west side  
Street  
Okotoks  
Streets. In community  
Streets

### **Do you ever ride at Shaw Millennium?**

#### **Response**

Lots of options, easy to get to.

The only one in town for more advanced skaters

It's huge. But half of it is barely used. They coulda built 30 skate spots around down. Dangerous for kids. Vagrants.

Close to home. Good facility

Good variety of terrain and mix of skill level

Sometimes. But I don't like the sketchy atmosphere. The ground is rough. Don't like it anymore. Plus I have to drive to the train, take the train. May as well just drive to Cochrane. But my mom wouldn't let me go to millennium when I was 14 because of train, homeless and a few fights that went viral online. People have asked me for meth and weed at millennium. but that's mostly because it's downtown, not because it's a skate park

They have a beginner bowl, easy entry

If my friends go there. It's chill

It's the only actual legit park. It's the central place to go. But I prefer here because the ground is



## Verbatim Comments



forgiving

It's bigger than most

Only skate park

See friends

It's fun. I can learn to be better. Sometimes little kids get in the way

Only main skate park central

Want to make friends here. Fun. Can learn things. How to grind, jump. Learn by doing it

First time

Fun place to cruise

Dad is an ex skater. Green bowl is good for learning. Nice place to ride

I don't know. To ride. Has stuff the street doesn't have

Lots of features to ride. Needs a small half pipe for beginners

Lots of features to ride.

Good place to skate. Unique features. Not many other places

Fun

Fun

Good place to hang. Be yourself

Lots of rails and more stuff than streets

Bigger than other parks. Big bowls. Advance skills

Fun park

Good park. People bowls

Used to it

Expert park lots of fun

Convenient big open

See friends and ride

Big and not too many people

Where the homies at

Meeting place. Not other places to go

Good park. Big.

Lots of bowls

Fun, safe, easy to access

**Do (or did) your parents ever come with you to the skate park while you were learning?**

**Responses (YES)**

Until kids understand the rules of the park it's not safe

Just because they were interested. They supported me

Safety, keep an eye on me

Because young boys need to be watched. Older skaters help young boys to learn

Safety, keep an eye on me



## Verbatim Comments



They hung out the first couple times. When you start it's kind of intimidating, so he was checking it out making sure it's good.

Because they are far away

They were there to support us. Keep an eye and make sure it's a good thing to get in to

Because of the distance - need to give kids a ride

I was younger. Security probably

My dad's in car. Make sure I'm safe. Watch and support

Concerns. Of safety.

Dad skateboard. Bonding

Support me. Make sure I'm safe.

Just to support me. Safety and in case I get hurt. Like if you get a bloody nose or something. There's fountains to watch the blood

Safety and To watch

I'm here with my two kids. Can't go out on their own. Too young

Keep you safe

Concerns of safety. Also drove.

Worried about safety

Liked to watch

Worried about bad kids and trouble

Looking out for safety. And sketch people

Give ride and wants to watch. Dad skates too

Watch and safety

Lookout for me

Supervise the environment

### **Responses (NO)**

I am skilled enough to go on my own

Just drop me off

They're working

I always came to west side and it's safe here

Busy

They live out of town

Not allowed to come at night

Started on streets

### **Do you feel there are enough places for beginners to comfortably learn or practice?**

#### **Responses (YES)**

The older ones help

Mils fits the need

More people are advanced.



## Verbatim Comments



The street is ok, but you have to be careful because cars can hit you. So look both ways when you're doing jumps and stuff

### Responses (NO)

Just 2 parks now. But when others come it'll be better

Only skate parks, not friendly for young skaters

I wouldn't want to drop my kids there.

Take to empty parking lot or cul de sac to practice before going to a park

Not enough small parks for learning

West side is the only place people can practice. CKE fills too fast which is hard if you're young and learning. Millennium is also more advanced, but I'm biased I just don't like it

West side is the only place people can practice. CKE fills too fast which is hard if you're young and learning. Millennium is also more advanced, but I'm biased I just don't like it

In Calgary certainly not. Lack of skate parks. There's some more now, but they are far away. Some have rough ground too. Really the only other PUBLIC park is CKE WHICH IS TOO SMALL FOR THE DEMAND

The places with beginner options are always very busy

No. I live in the SE so I have to take the train here. I know some kids parents wouldn't let them take the train

Not many. CKE small, you hit people. There's not many easy features there.

Perception of danger. Feel not safe place to learn

Not enough parks to places

Could use more. Mills too busy and advanced

Come to Mills on a weekend and there's way too many people. It's hard for young riders to keep an eye out for other skaters. Crowding is dangerous for young guys.

Mills is too big for beginners. Too many people for young kids. Need more parks.

Needs to be more. Can be intimidating

Other cities have more parks. Calgary very large not enough parks. Kids intimidated here and don't come at night.

Need more places to skate and learn. Should be able build ramps on personal property.

Not enough places to learn

Could be more

Not enough

Public setting hard to learn is intimidating

Need private place to learn

Not enough places

Too many people. Want to learn on own in private. Don't want to be embarrassed

Mills very intimidating. Hard to learn as intimidating

Not a lot to learn. Lots of intimidating older kids

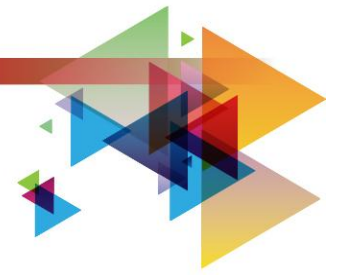
Could be more

Could use more

If you don't drive it can be hard to find a park



## Verbatim Comments



### Is there anything else you'd like to share?

#### Responses

It'll be better when the other parks open. Now there's not many places aside from the street, schools etc

People have to go here or airdrop or Okotoks. And all the young kids are riding scooters now. This isn't a good place for kids to ride scooters. I don't think they'd like this park

Skate demographic is really broad, lots of users. Need to accommodate all of them

But we need more parks. The new ones will help. I heard they are building 50 more over the next years

Backyard ramps would be great, unique way to develop motor skills and socialization. Keeps kids out of trouble

Millennium is good in the morning, but there's more homeless people and stuff at night. It's great to grow the legal ability to skate. We need a park in the south. West side isn't even open until 3:30! And it's closed after thanksgiving even if the weather is good

Millennium is good in the morning, but there's more homeless people and stuff at night. It's great to grow the legal ability to skate. We need a park in the south. West side isn't even open until 3:30! And it's closed after thanksgiving even if the weather is good

It should be made sure that facilities are around for people to use. Reasonable use of ramps in yards should be allowed. We are the only city in North America with that kind of restriction. Not a park in Calgary has a concrete bowl aside from Mills which is really rough

Micro parks would be great - a few features along the side of a path would be good for learners

I think maybe there should be more arena mobiles. Indoor is nicer because it's way smoother

If we're going to build parks they should be built by actual skate companies. Newline not PCL. I heard CKE already bumpy. LOL PCL built a skate park! If we're gonna spend money you should do it right.

Cochrane was built by new line and it's still holding up through all conditions! I don't understand what's the big deal with having mini ramps in your backyard. Lots of people have them anyways. As long as it's not too late

City mobile parks were a really good place to learn, especially because of having staff on site

Learned on the sidewalk, made jumps

Have new line build the skateparks. CKE is already bumpy

I have a mini ramp, half pipe. I use it at home. I'm not much of a bowl rider, all about the street

Great for kids to learn. Must sound proof ramp

N/a

Say if I was going down over there, kids cross some in front of you.

Not enough places to learn

It takes a lot of practice to learn as a kid on a bike

Bike lanes are nice.

Ramps should allowed in yards as safe place to learn for kids. Many parents too busy to drive kids to skate parks and they need a safe place to learn.

Doesn't have to be just for young kids, but still need places for young kids to skate. Mills isn't always safe, drugs and whatnot. But still need safe places for young guys to learn. Mills could benefit from a bigger green beginner area.

No.





## Verbatim Comments



There needs to be more opportunity for kids to learn in a safe environment

Ramps should be allowed on personal property.

Thinks ramps should be allowed on personal property as it's your property. People shouldn't be able to tell you what you can and cannot have.

Should be able build what you want on personal property. If you hurt yourself on your ramp it's your problem, not the Cities.

Want more places close to home to ride

Need more parks and places to learn

Legalize skateboarding.

You should be allowed to have ramps in yards. It's a safe place to learn and develop skills before going to the skate park

Shouldn't be an issue to have 4 foot ramp in yard. Maybe not like an 8 foot but something small should. Be allowed. Beginners need places to learn without feeling intimidated.

Ramps should be allowed

Want ramp in yard

Ramps should be allowed on land you own

Ramps should be allowed as intimidating to learn in front of better kids

Ramps should be allowed on personal property as great place to learn without pressure or teasing from other kids

Ramps in yards should be fine if noise levels appropriate

Need more Parks and ramps in yards.

Should be allowed to have ramps in yard and need indoor parks.

More parks. Need access to places to learn.

Ramps should be allowed in backyards as safe place to learn before coming to skate park

Ramps should be allowed on private property. City should not dictate this use on private land

