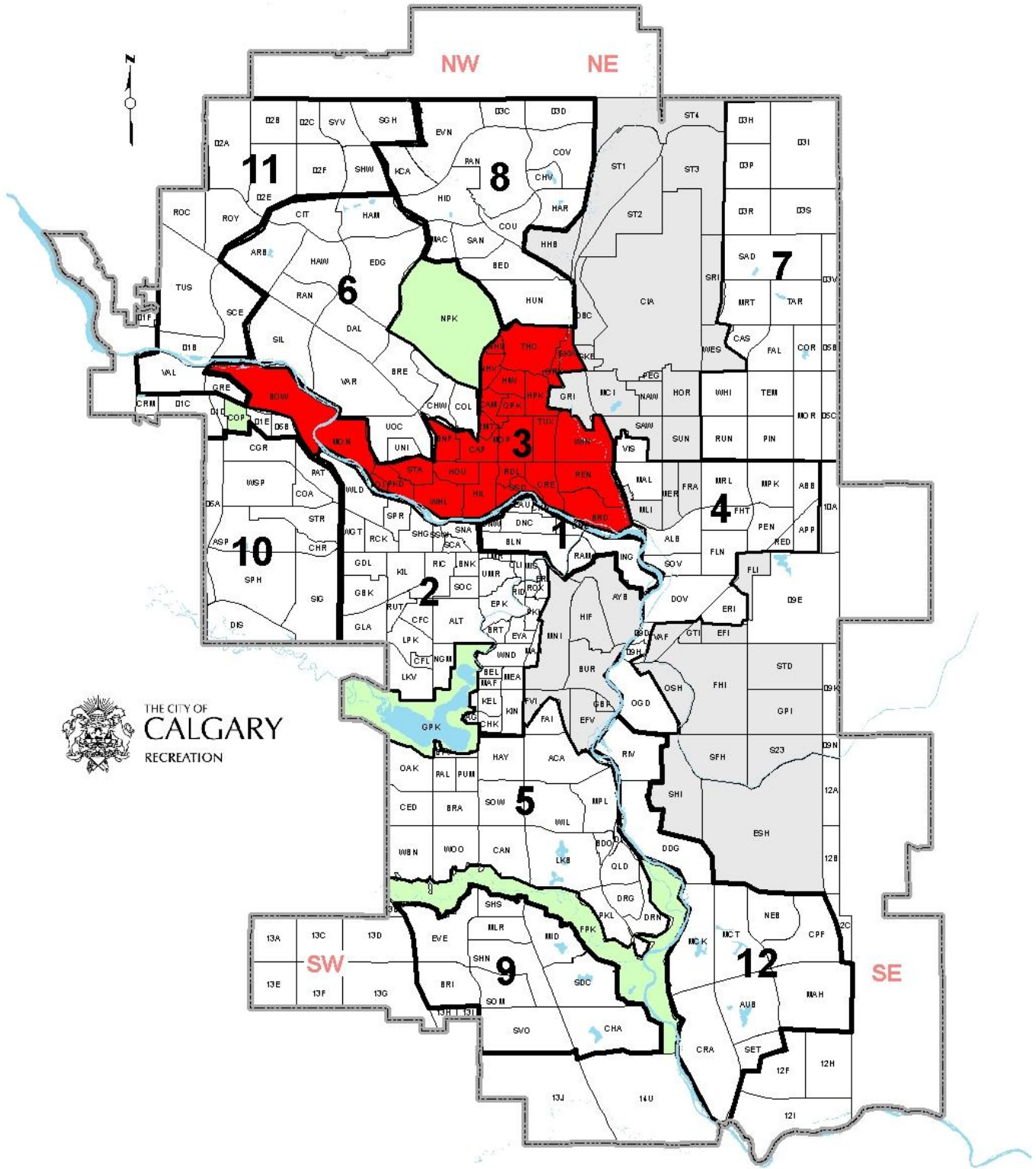

Recreation Amenities

Gap Analysis

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3



Contents

Introduction	1
About This Report	1
Area 3	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](#)¹, and the Calgary Sport Council, [A 10 Year Strategy for Sport Facility Development and Enhancement](#)².

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

About This Report

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

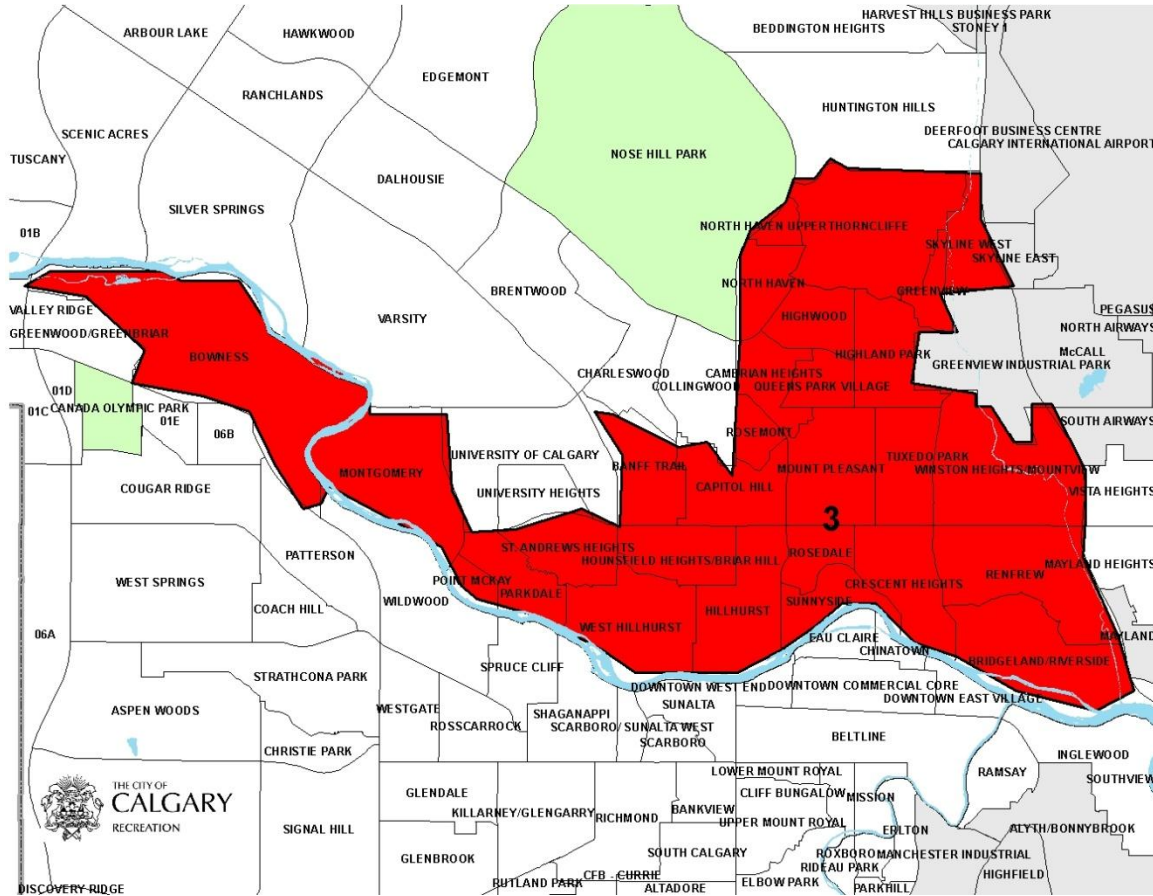
RAGA provides a comprehensive and detailed overview of the recreation activities that Calgarians engage in, and identifies needs, preferences, challenges and opportunities for recreation planning and service delivery across the city. However, while the results presented here are representative of the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

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

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

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

Area 3



Area 3 is located in north of Calgary's Centre City region, and contains the following communities:

- Banff Trail
- Bowness
- Bridgeland
- Cambrian Heights
- Capitol Hill
- Crescent Heights
- Greenview
- Highland Park
- Highwood
- Hillhurst
- Hounsfield Heights-Briar Hill
- Montgomery
- Mount Pleasant
- North Haven
- North Haven Upper
- Parkdale
- Point McKay
- Queen's Park Village
- Renfrew
- Rosedale
- Rosemont
- St. Andrew's Heights
- Sunnyside
- Thorncliffe
- West Hillhurst
- Winston Heights
- Tuxedo Park

A total of 500 telephone surveys were conducted with residents in this area. With a population of 100,245⁴, a sample of this size yields results that are accurate within +/- 4.38%, 19 times out of 20.

⁴ 2006 Federal Census

Geodemographics

Community Development

Development in Area 3 began during the first part of the 20th Century, though the majority of the communities were developed between 1945 and 1965.

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 actually losing residents. In fact, **Area 3 is one of three areas in Calgary that has experienced a population decline in recent years, falling by 0.8% during between 2002 and 2008.**

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 3. 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 or additional amenities in order to address projected long term growth, even though they may lose residents in the short term.

As a result, communities in Area 3 may be in a situation of vying for limited resources when short term figures indicate a population loss, making new investment counterintuitive. However, Area 3 is comprised of both inner city and developed communities, and despite recent population loss may experience both short and longer-term densification. It will be important for recreation service providers and The City of Calgary to acknowledge these projections and to monitor community development as it unfolds in this area.

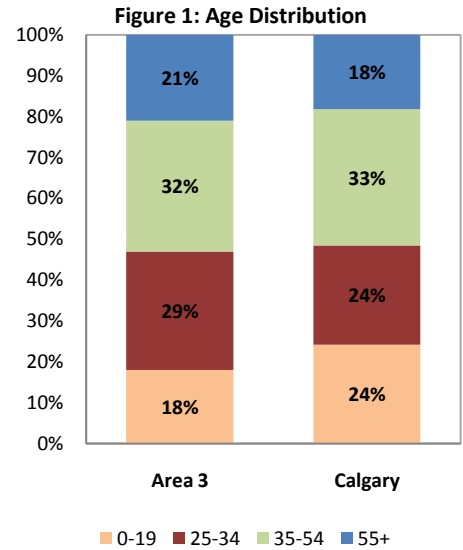
Population growth at the city level and community lifecycles are important and tangible considerations for recreation service planning and delivery in Calgary. Other considerations, such as the aging and growing diversity of the population will help shape the expectations that Calgarians have for recreation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

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3

Age

Data indicate that there are a number of distinctive age profiles in different areas of Calgary. For example, there is a prominence of young adults (between 20 and 34 years of age) and older adults (55+) who reside in the inner city area and areas directly north and south of the inner city, such as Area 3, suggesting a higher than average composition of both young families and seniors households.

It should be noted, however, that the overall demographic profile of Calgary is expected to change over the next few decades. In particular, the age composition of residents will become older. In contrast, growth in the number of residents who are newborn to age 14 within the city will be minimal. Should these trends continue over the next two decades, there is likely to be a substantial effect on the demand for recreation and leisure, most notably a significant increase in demand from pre-seniors and seniors as the baby boomers age. In fact, based on the current age profile of Area 3, these trends may be visible here sooner than in other areas of the city.



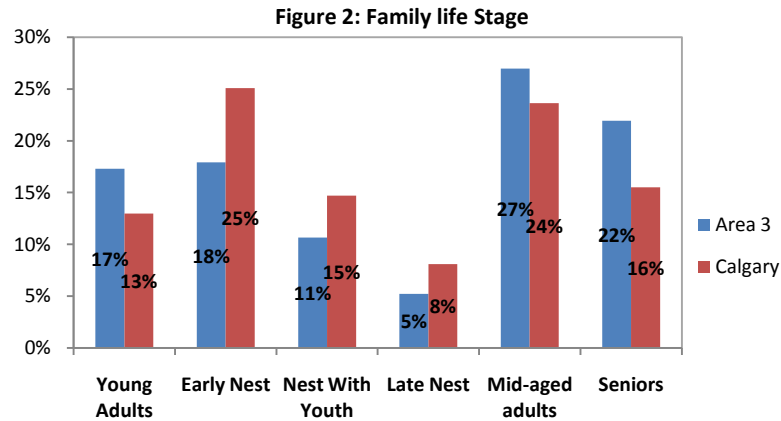
Data collected for RAGA suggests that these older residents are likely to be more involved in recreation and leisure pursuits compared to previous generations of seniors. In particular, they will likely want to be both physically and mentally active to ensure that they maintain a quality of life that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

Family Life Stage

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

- **Young adults (without children/youth)** – adults are primarily under 45 years of age, no children or youth are present;
- **Early nest** – children/youth are primarily under 13 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Nest with youth** – children/youth are primarily between 13 and 19 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Late nest** – children/youth are primarily between 20 and 24 years of age, adults are any age;
- **Mid-aged adults** – adults are primarily between 45 and 64 years of age, no children or youth present; and
- **Seniors** – adults are primarily 65 years of age or older, no children or youth present.

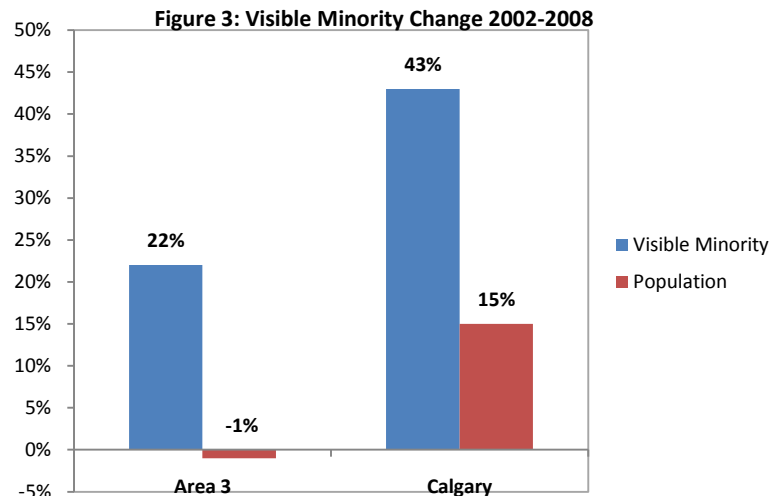
Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3



Not surprisingly given the respective age profiles, the family life stages of Area 3 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 3 has a higher proportion of Young Adults, Mid-Aged Adults and Seniors than Calgary as a whole, and a lower proportion of households with children present. This further supports the notion that trends in recreation and leisure associated with an aging population, particularly as reflected in the composition of families, may be noticeable in Area 3 prior to other areas in Calgary.

Diversity

Not only is Calgary's population growing, it is also becoming more diverse. Data from Statistics Canada show that between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of the population of Calgarians considered to be visible minorities rose from 19%, or one in five residents, to 23%, or nearly one in four residents. In fact, the visible minority population in Calgary increased 43% between 2001 and 2006 compared to 15% for the population as a whole between 2002 and 2008. **In Area 3, while the overall population decreased by 1%, the visible minority population increased by 22% between 2002 and 2008.** Whereas population growth in Area 3 has been stagnant, the communities have quickly become more diverse.



Additional data reveals that various Study Areas have attracted residents of different ethnic origins. As the figure below shows, **Area 3 has a higher concentration of residents from the British Isles and Western Europe, and a lower proportion of residents from East, Southeast and South Asia.**

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3

Table 1: Population by Ethnic Origin (%)					
Origin	Area 3	Calgary	Origin	Area 3	Calgary
British Isles origins	53	45	African origins	2	2
Western European origins	25	21	South Asian origins	2	6
Other North American origins	21	20	Caribbean origins	1	1
Eastern European origins	17	16	Latin, Central and South American Origins	1	2
French origins	12	10	Arab origins	1	2
Northern European origins	10	8	West Asian origins	1	1
East and Southeast Asian origins	8	13	Oceania origins	1	0
Southern European origins	7	7			
Aboriginal origins	5	4			

≥ 3% of Calgary Average

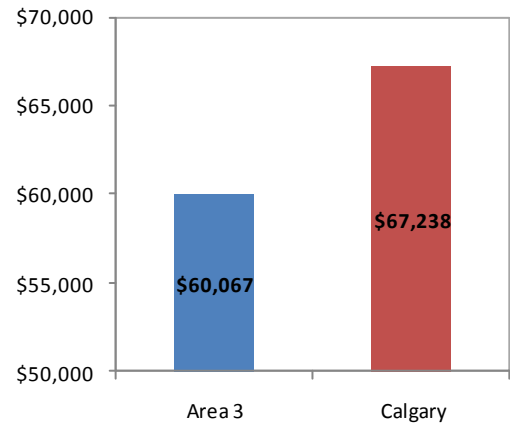
≤3% of Calgary Average

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 household incomes in Area 3 are somewhat lower – by an average of just over \$7,200 - than for the city as a whole**, and are third lowest among the twelve Study Areas. The affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in the city is a concern among low income Calgarians, and impacts the degree to which they consider themselves involved in recreation and leisure activities.

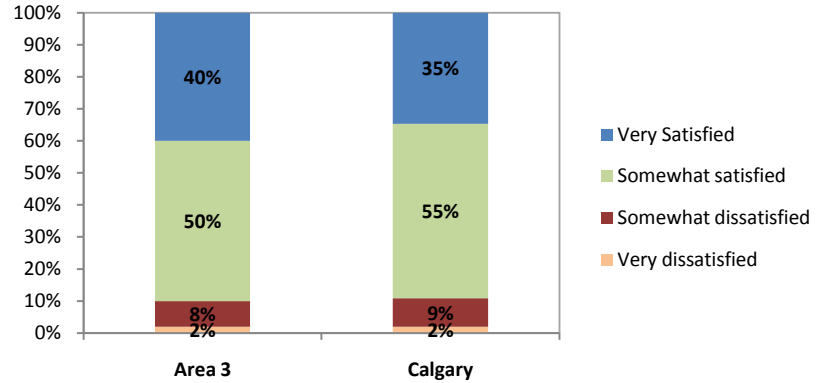
Figure 4: Household Income



Overall Perceptions of Recreation and Leisure Opportunities

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

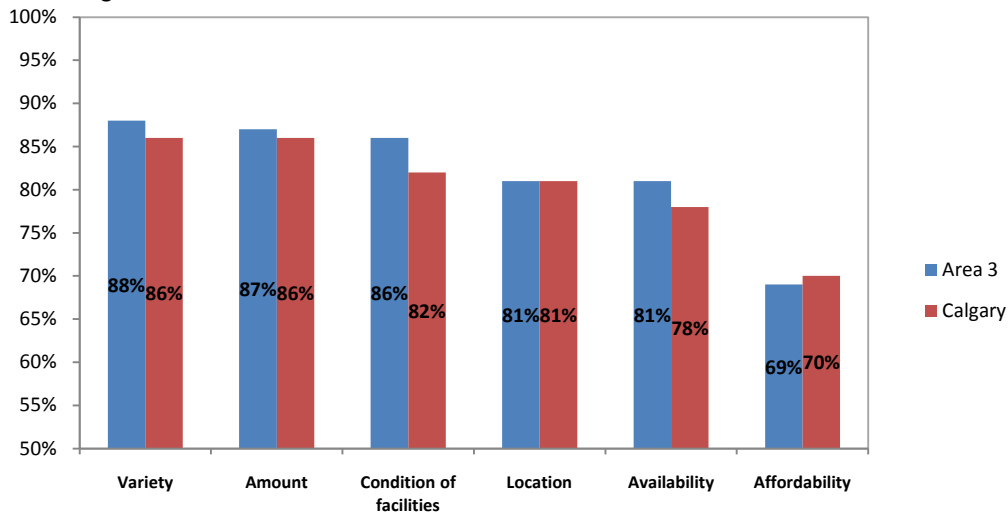
Figure 5: Overall Satisfaction with Recreation and Leisure Opportunities



Results from the RAGA surveys show that while overall satisfaction levels are high, **respondents from Area 3 equally likely to state that they were 'very satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with their recreation and leisure activities compared to respondents from all Study Areas combined.**

There are a number of factors that may contribute to the overall satisfaction that Calgarians have with the recreation and leisure activities of their households. The amount and variety of recreation opportunities, the location of opportunities and the condition of recreation facilities, the availability of suitable recreation opportunities and their affordability are all thought to play a role in how individuals, families and communities experience recreation. The RAGA surveys explored satisfaction along these dimensions; Figure 6 shows the percentage of respondents from Area 3 and from all Calgarians who were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with each.

Figure 6: Satisfaction with Dimensions of Recreation and Leisure



Survey results indicate that respondents are more satisfied with some aspects of recreation and leisure service provision than others. Overall, almost nine in ten respondents indicated that they were 'somewhat satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the variety (86%) and amount (86%) of recreation and leisure opportunities, while seven in ten respondents (70%) are satisfied with the affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities.

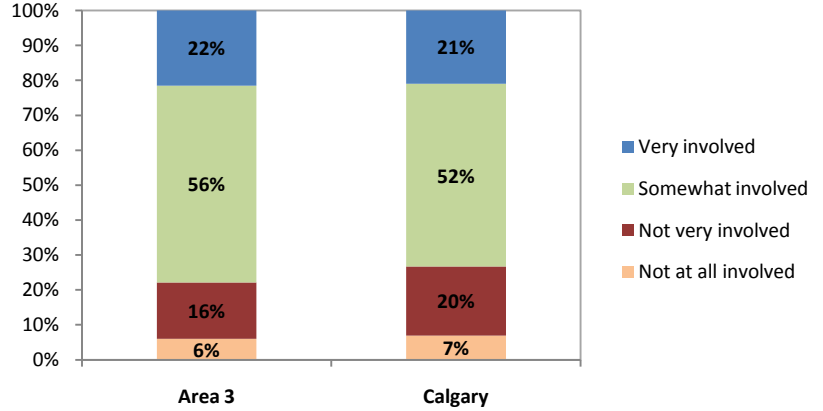
On most dimensions, residents of Area 3 were fairly similar to residents of Calgary as a whole in terms of satisfaction. **Area 3 residents were slightly more satisfied with the variety of recreation opportunities and with the condition of recreation facilities than were all Calgarians.**

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 3. For the latter, this may not be surprising for a number of reasons, based on the demographic profile of the area. Further analysis of survey data shows that overall, respondents in with lower household incomes are significantly less likely to be satisfied with affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities than households with higher incomes. In addition respondents from early nest and nest with youth households are less satisfied with the variety, condition, location and availability of recreation and leisure opportunities. Finally, RAGA found that for the city as a whole, visible minority respondents are markedly less satisfied with the amount, location and affordability of recreation and leisure opportunities in Calgary.

Level of Involvement in Recreation and Leisure

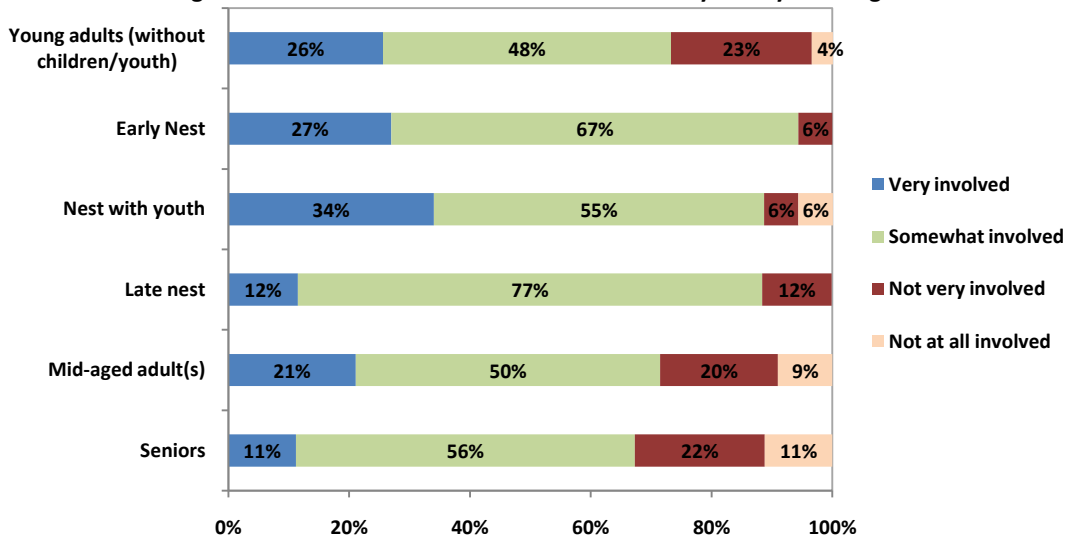
To gain a sense of Calgarians' involvement in recreation and leisure, respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they perceive themselves to be involved with recreation and leisure activities. As can be seen in Figure 6, a slightly larger proportion of Area 3 respondents (78%) indicated that they were 'very involved' or 'somewhat involved' in recreation and leisure as compared to Calgary as a whole (73%). Further, most (56%) stated that they were 'somewhat involved' rather than 'very involved'. This seems consistent with the higher satisfaction ratings given by Area 3 respondents.

Figure 7: Perceived Involvement in Recreation and Leisure



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 3 are somewhat more likely to perceive themselves to be involved in recreation and leisure across the family life stages, with the exception of Young Adults. In particular, Early Nest and Seniors households in Area 3 each had a proportion of respondents indicating that they were 'very' or 'somewhat' involved in recreation and leisure that was 9% higher than for Calgary as a whole.

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



Recreation and Leisure Activities

One way that RAGA examined involvement in recreation and leisure activities was by considering the types of activities that Calgarians across the various age cohorts participate in. From this exploration a number of general observations were made, which apply to Area 3 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 lower involvement in recreation and leisure activities reported by residents of Area 3 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 3

Table 2: Top 30 Most Common Activities by Age Group (Area 3)

Under 13 (n=96)		13-19 (n=72)		20-44 (n=234)		45-64 (n=247)		65+ (n=129)	
Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%	Activity	%
Swimming - for pleasure	65	Cycling - for pleasure	44	Swimming - for pleasure	56	Walking for pleasure	73	Walking for pleasure	74
Swimming - lessons	48	Swimming - for pleasure	40	Walking for pleasure	48	Cycling - for pleasure	41	Books/reading	32
Soccer - Outdoor	36	Skiing - Alpine	22	Cycling - for pleasure	37	Swimming - for pleasure	36	Swimming - for pleasure	22
Cycling - for pleasure	33	Soccer - Outdoor	21	Fitness training - workout/gym	36	Books/reading	30	Gardening	22
Music - play an instrument	28	Hockey - Ice	21	Running	26	Hiking	28	Visiting friends/relatives	21
Going to the park/playground	25	Running	18	Hiking	21	Fitness training - workout/gym	21	Hiking	16
Skating for pleasure/fun	24	Soccer - Indoor	17	Books/reading	18	Golf	17	Golf	13
Gymnastics/Rhythmic	24	Walking for pleasure	15	Skiing - Alpine	17	Skiing - Alpine	17	Volunteering	12
Books/reading	23	Skating for pleasure/fun	15	Skating for pleasure/fun	15	Gardening	14	Cards/playing	10
Skiing - Alpine	22	Fitness training - workout/gym	14	Yoga	15	Running	12	Craft or hobby	10
Going to the library	20	Music - play an instrument	14	Golf	13	Attend movies	11	Television - watching	9
Walking for pleasure	18	Books/reading	14	Park	12	Craft or hobby	11	Traveling	9
Camping	16	Basketball	13	Camping	12	Camping	10	Camping	9
Soccer - Indoor	14	Baseball	13	Hockey - Ice	10	Library	10	Knitting/sewing	9
Hockey - Ice	10	Football	11	Soccer - Outdoor	10	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Fitness training - workout/gym	8
Dancing - Other - Participant	10	Hiking	10	Visiting friends/relatives	9	Yoga	9	Cycling - for pleasure	8
Zoo	10	Snowboarding	10	Attend music concert	9	Skating for pleasure/fun	9	Library	8
Hiking	9	Attend movies	8	Craft or hobby	9	Attend music concert	9	Board games/puzzles	8
Craft or hobby	9	Camping	8	Attend movies	8	Skiing - Nordic	8	Attend music concert	7
Visiting friends/relatives	8	Dancing - Other - Participant	8	Library	7	Park	6	Church	7
Boy scouts/guides/cadets	6	Tennis	8	Tennis	7	Hockey - Ice	6	Curling	6
Baseball	4	Golf	7	Snowboarding	7	Tennis	6	Bowling - 5/10 pin	6
Camp (summer/day camp)	4	Volleyball/Beach volleyball	7	Attend live theatre (not movies)	6	Attend live theatre (not movies)	5	Yoga	6
Martial arts	2	Computer - games	6	Television - watching	5	Volunteering	5	Aquasize	5
Television - watching	2	Going to the library	6	Fishing	5	Television - watching	4	Dancing - Other - Participant	5
Golf	2	Skateboarding	6	Gardening	5	Dancing - Other - Participant	4	Attend movies	4
Basketball	1	Visiting friends/relatives	4	Baseball	4	Traveling	3	Park	3
Computer - games	1	Badminton	3	Soccer - Indoor	3	Fishing	3	Skiing - Alpine	3
Dancing - Ballet - Participant	1	Television - watching	3	Computer - games	3	Curling	1	Attend live theatre (not movies)	2
Dancing - Jazz - Participant	0	Swimming - lessons	0	Basketball	2	Attend a sport event (spectator)	0	Attend a sport event (spectator)	1

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3

In general, a greater proportion of residents in Area 3 participate in the multigenerational activities (swimming, cycling and walking) than in Calgary as a whole. In contrast, residents in most age cohorts were less likely to engage in fitness training and golf than in Calgary as a whole.

Among the under-13 year old age group, swimming, either for pleasure or in lessons was the most common activity in Area 3 as it was for all Study Areas. There were however some notable differences between Area 3 and Calgary as a whole. Area 3 residents participate in a number of activities in significantly greater proportion than Calgary as a whole, including playing a music instrument (+12%), going to the library (+11%), gymnastics, books/reading and skiing (+10%). There were also some activities reported by fewer Area 3 households, including swimming lessons (-12%) and outdoor soccer (-6%).

Cycling and swimming for pleasure were the most commonly cited activities among 13 to 19 year olds in Area 3. In fact, cycling for pleasure was reported by 17% more residents of this cohort in Area 3 than in Calgary as a whole. Also notable was no mention of swimming lessons (0%) in Area 3, versus 10% of all Calgary households.

In the 20 to 44 age group, swimming for pleasure was the top rated activity. Additionally, walking for pleasure and hiking become more common among this age group compared to younger groups. In general, differences between Area 3 and Calgary as a whole are evident in higher participation rates among Area 3 households. For example, in comparison to Calgary as a whole, residents of Area 3 were substantially more likely to report swimming for pleasure (+11%) and cycling for pleasure (+11%), and only slightly less likely to report fitness training (-4%) and golf (-3%). However, residents of Area 3 reported walking for pleasure (36%) and fitness training (25%), as well as running (4%) and alpine skiing (4%), significantly less than Calgarians as a whole.

Among adults between the ages of 45 and 64, walking for pleasure was most common and was prevalent in all Areas, even more so in Area 3 (+7%). In addition, Area 3 residents more often reported cycling for pleasure (+13%), books/reading (+13%) and hiking (+9%) than residents of Calgary as a whole. However, as in other age groups, golf and fitness training were less common in Area 3 (-9% and -13% respectively).

Walking for pleasure remains by far the most common activity among people in the 65+ age group in Area 3 as well as all other Study Area. Residents in Area 3 were more likely than in Calgary as a whole to report books/reading (+8%) and gardening (+7%), and less likely to report golf (-9%) and fitness training (-9%).

Many of the top activities in which residents of Area 3 participate are similar to those in other areas, and their level of involvement tends to be higher than in Calgary as a whole. In addition, Area 3 residents of all age cohorts reported being involved in a greater number of activities than in Calgary as a whole.

Barriers to Recreation and Leisure Involvement

RAGA survey respondents were asked to identify factors that may prevent them and/or members of their household from being involved in recreation and leisure activities to the extent that they would like. Interestingly, 51% of all respondents and 47% of respondents from Area 3 indicated that they already recreate as often as they would like. This means that more than half of respondents in this Area would like to recreate more than they do currently, and are facing one or more barriers. Moreover, these perceived barriers may represent potential opportunities for recreation service providers to improve recreation products, services and facilities to address some of these challenges, and ultimately provide more opportunities for all Calgarians to increase/maintain their level of participation in recreation activities.

Barriers to participation in recreation activities (%)		
	Area 3	Calgary
Personal interest/situation	60	63
Already participate as often as would like	47	51
Involved in other activities	9	9
Just lazy	2	2
Not interested	2	1
No children/children grown up	0	0
Other priorities/time constraints	19	17
No time	11	9
Work commitments	6	6
Family commitments	1	2
Travel a lot	1	0
School commitments	0	0
Facility/Program Accessibility	14	14
Too far away/inconvenient	4	4
Prices/fees too high/too costly	2	3
The right kinds of recreation/leisure opportunities/amenities not available	3	2
Nothing organized/available	2	1
Lack of awareness/information	0	1
Opportunities available do not my schedule	2	1
Opportunities available too full/crowded	1	1
Other	0	0
Social Isolation	7	6
Cannot afford	3	3
Poor health/physically challenged	2	2
Age (too old)	2	1
Feel uncomfortable with other people who participate/intimidated by others	0	0
Other	0	0
Don't know	1	0
Total	100	100

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3

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 3 households - too far away/inconvenient and cost - seem to closely mirror those elements of recreation with which residents were least satisfied (location, amount and affordability).

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 they do not currently participate. RAGA survey results indicated that 34% of respondents from Area 3, and 30% of respondents from all Study Areas combined listed one or more other recreation activities that they would like to start participating in. Table 4 shows the percentage of respondents interested in participating in each of the top 30 most common activities.

Table 4: Recreation Activities of Interest (%)					
(Organized by Top 30 Most Common Activities)					
	Area 3	Calgary		Area 3	Calgary
	(n=500)	(n=6,024)		(n=500)	(n=6,024)
Swimming - for pleasure	6	4	Cycling - for pleasure	1	1
Fitness training - workout/gym	5	4	Walking for pleasure	1	1
Yoga	4	2	Gymnastics/Rhythmic	1	1
Dancing - Other - Participant	4	2	Skiing - Nordic	1	1
Martial arts	2	2	Curling	1	1
Skating for pleasure/fun	2	1	Rock climbing	1	1
Hockey - Ice	2	1	Baseball	1	1
Parachuting	2	1	Swimming - lessons	1	1
Craft or hobby	2	1	Attend educational courses	0	1
Courses	2	1	Golf	0	1
Art class/program	1	2	Aquasize	0	1
Tennis	1	2	Badminton	0	1
Music - play an instrument	1	1	Hiking	0	1
Soccer - Outdoor	1	1	Dancing - Ballroom	0	1
Skiing - Alpine	1	1	Running/jogging	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. Further, fitness training was one of the few activities reported by a smaller proportion of Area 3 residents than Calgarians as a whole, which suggests that one or more barriers specific to this activity may be preventing people in this area from participating as often as they would like.

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 3 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 3 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Parks	88	85	Classrooms	29	22
Pathways	79	78	Indoor ice rinks	29	22
Public Libraries	65	67	Outdoor rectangular fields	28	19
Indoor swimming pools/Leisure aquatic facilities	58	61	Gymnasiums	27	19
Neighbourhood gathering places	54	53	Outdoor Tennis courts	16	17
Performance theatres or stages	51	44	Outdoor ball diamonds	16	17
Fitness facilities with weight training/cardio equipment	46	42	Indoor rectangular fields	13	16
Playgrounds or tot lots	38	37	Running Track	12	15
Outdoor ice rinks	32	32	Dance studios	12	13
Multi-purpose rooms	32	30	Squash/Racquetball courts	9	8
Meeting rooms	31	30	Lawn bowling greens	3	2
Arts centres or arts studios	30	29	Indoor Tennis courts	3	4

For the most part, Area 3 residents use the listed recreation and leisure amenities at similar or higher levels that 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, gymnasiums (+8%), indoor ice rinks (+7%) and fitness facilities (+4%) are used by a greater proportion of Area 3 residents.

The specific amenities that residents of Area 3 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 thought were needed within their areas.

On the whole, a considerable portion of respondents from Area 3 (56%) suggested that nothing was needed, which is higher than for the city as a whole (47%). Pathways were the most frequently identified as needed in Area 3, followed by an indoor ice rink, suggesting that although Area 3 residents use indoor ice rinks in greater proportion to Calgary as a whole, there remains a demand for additional amenities in this area of the city (though lower than the average across Calgary). In contrast, residents were less likely to identify large facilities, such as a leisure centre or regional recreation facility, as needed in Area 3.

Table 6: Perceived Amenity Needs and Expectations (%)					
	Area 3 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)		Area 3 (n=500)	Calgary (n=6,023)
Nothing	56	47	A community centre	1	3
Pathways	7	5	Aquatic/fitness Centre	1	2
Indoor ice rink	6	9	Outdoor rectangular fields	1	2
An indoor swimming pool	5	8	Playgrounds/tot lots	1	1
Parks	5	5	Performance theatres or stages	1	1
Other	5	4	Indoor tennis	1	1
A Southland/Village Square Leisure Centre	4	7	Public golf course/golf facility	1	1
A(nother) regional recreation facility	4	6	Outdoor pool	1	1
More facilities/amenities	4	3	Outdoor ball diamonds	1	1
A leisure aquatic pool/wave pool/lazy river	3	3	Squash/racquetball	1	1
Arts centres or arts studios	3	2	Running track/indoor/outdoor	1	1
Outdoor ice rinks	2	4	Multi-purpose room	0	2
Indoor rectangular fields	2	3	Outdoor tennis	0	1
Gymnasium	2	3	Dance studios	0	1
A public library branch	2	2	Classrooms	0	1
Gathering places for community residents	2	2	Skateboard park	0	1

Summary and Conclusion

The research conducted as part of RAGA suggests a number of important considerations that must be made when thinking about recreation amenity planning and delivery in Calgary. Broad trends, such as the growing, aging and diversifying population will impact the demand for various recreation and leisure opportunities throughout the city. However, one of the key benefits of RAGA is the demonstration of how different regions of the city vary in terms of involvement, activities, barriers and perceived amenity gaps. Such knowledge offers a great deal of insight for recreation and leisure service providers in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors alike.

As has been shown, Area 3 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:

- Recent net population loss, likely to reverse in the short term, with plans to significantly increase density over the long term
- Increasing ethnic diversity of residents
- Slightly lower than average household incomes
- Higher than average levels of involvement in recreation and leisure activities
- Higher than average levels of satisfaction with various dimensions of recreation service provision, with the exception of affordability of recreation opportunities
- Higher than average usage of many recreation amenities

Residents from Area 3 were somewhat more likely than those from other areas to indicate that no new amenities are needed in their area, and there was no single barrier that emerged as particularly pervasive. When asked about activities that they might consider pursuing, the interests expressed were similar to those activities which are already popular, such as swimming and fitness, though there was a significant range of activities mentioned.

Over the next decade, the demographic profile of Area 3 may change significantly, to the extent that the broader growth, aging and increasing diversity of Calgary's population is experienced in these communities. An already active mid-aged and senior population, and an established amenity base may further mean that Area 3 warrants careful examination over the short term, in order to understand the outcomes of these trends in other areas of Calgary.

Recreation Amenities Gap Analysis Summary Report Area 3

Appendix A: Amenities used most often by Area 3 survey respondents (Top 5 for each amenity type)

Parks (n=441)		Pathways (n=393)		Indoor Swimming Pools or Leisure Aquatic Facilities (n=290)		Public Libraries (n=324)		Playgrounds/Tot Lots (n=191)		Fitness Facilities (n=232)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
In community	28	In community	28	Renfrew Pool and Fitness Centre	17	Louise B. Riley	36	In community	81	Other	30
Other	13	Bow River Pathway	23	Shouldice Pool	10	Downtown/Central/WR Castell	18	Other	16	Private facility	9
Confederation Park	12	Other	22	VRRRI Recreation Centre	9	Thornhill	14	Don't know	3	U of C	7
Bowness Park	11	Nosehill Park	6	Thornccliffe Aquatic and Fitness Centre	9	Nose Hill	13	Total	100	Thornccliffe Aquatic and Recreation Centre	7
Riley Park	10	Prince's Island Park	5	Sir Winston Churchill Aquatic and Fitness Centre	7	Bowness	11			World Health Club	6
Total	74	Total	84	Total	52	Total	92			Total	59
Neighbourhood Gathering Places (n=268)		Performance Theatres and Stages (n=256)		Outdoor Rectangular Fields (n=135)		Indoor Ice Rinks (n=144)		Gymnasiums (n=167)		Outdoor Ice Rinks (n=157)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Community Centres	77	Jack Singer Concert Hall/Epcore Centre	21	Community	58	Other	25	Other	32	In community/centre	63
Other	8	Jubilee Auditorium	20	School	13	U of C- Olympic Oval	15	Community centres	13	Park/Lake	30
Parks	8	Other	16	Other	10	Thornccliffe/Greenview arena	9	U of C	11	Olympic Plaza	5
Don't know	3	Calgary Centre for Performing Arts/Theatre Calgary	13	Don't know	6	Don't know/Refused	7	Schools	10	Don't know	2
Churches-Misc	2	Stage West	9	Shouldice Athletic Park	6	U of C	5	Don't know/Refused	7	Other	1
Total	98	Total	79	Total	93	Total	61	Total	73	Total	101
Outdoor Ball Diamonds (n=150)		Running Tracks (n=150)		Multi-Purpose Rooms (n=150)		Arts Centres/Arts Studios Rooms (n=135)		Indoor Rectangular Fields (n=81)		Outdoor Tennis Courts (n=116)	
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%
Other	72	U of C	27	Community Centres	35	Community Centres	15	Other	40	In community	57
Don't know	11	Talisman Centre	22	Other	24	Private Facility/Studio	15	Calgary Soccer Centre	39	Other	36
School (not post secondary)	10	Other	17	Don't know/Refused	14	North Mount Pleasant art centre	14	Don't know	15	Don't know	6
Shouldice Park	7	YMCA (no specific facility)	13	U of C	7	Downtown- Unspecified	12	Calgary NE Sports Facility	1		
Foothills Athletic Park	0	U of C- Olympic Oval	8	Churches	4	Glenbow Museum	8	Westside Recreation Centre	1		
Total	100	Total	87	Total	84	Total	64	Total	96	Total	99
Classrooms (n=78)		Dance Studios (n=78)		Indoor Tennis Courts (n=29)		Meeting Rooms (n=78)		Squash and Racquetball Courts (n=78)			
Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%	Facility	%		
Other	38	Other Community Centres	37	Winter Club	27	Other community centres	41	Other	36		
U of C	16	Private Facility/Studio	35	Don't know	27	Other	26	Winter Club	17		
Schools	14	Other	10	Other	20	Don't know	8	Don't know	15		
SAIT	12	Don't know/Refused	6	Tennis Academy	13	Churches	5	SAIT	15		
Don't know	11	U of C	3	U of C	7	U of C	5	U of C	6		
Total	91	Total	91	Total	94	Total	85	Total	89		