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# Prepared for The City of Calgary

## Sports Ramps Representative Telephone Survey

## Report

## March 2016

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# Executive Summary

On 2015 June 19, Council directed Administration through a Notice of Motion (Appendix A in this report) to engage with residents in a dialogue about sports ramps (skateboard ramps) on private residential property. This survey is part of a number of research and engagement activities related to residential sports ramps between August and December 2015. Harris/Decima, is pleased to present this report to The City of Calgary on the public opinions related to sports ramps in The City of Calgary.

**The Notice of Motion generally asks three key questions and the findings are summarized below**:

1. How appropriate is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties?

   *Overall, 59% are comfortable with the proposed size of sports ramps on residential properties. These findings vary by age and home ownership. Perceived appropriateness declines with age. As well, home owners are less likely to feel that the proposed size is appropriate compared to renters (55% vs. 71%).*

2. Should sports ramps within the allowable size be exempt from the requirements of a development permit?

   *In total, 60% of respondents agree that a development permit should be required when building sports ramps on residential properties. Residents in the North East Quadrant are most likely to agree that a permit should be required. There are no differences in opinion between owners and renters.*

3. 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. Citizens were asked how comfortable they would be if the noise associated with sport ramp activities is restricted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends?

   *In general, a majority of residents are comfortable with sports ramps in their neighbourhood, assuming that noise would be restricted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends. Indeed, 74% say they are very or somewhat comfortable with the ramps and the associated noise regulations. Homeowners appear somewhat less comfortable with ramps and the perceived noise than renters (71% vs. 85%).*

**Other Key Findings**:

**Residents have a positive overall impression about skateboard/sports ramps.** In general, sports ramps appear to be fairly well received among residents. 67% of respondents have positive impressions and they are largely seen as providing physical exercise and entertainment aspects. However, they do recognize that there may be some safety issues, such as injuries, and noise concerns associated with sports ramps.

**Residents have an appetite for regulations and standards for skateboard/sports ramps.** Indeed, the survey suggests that residents would be comfortable with regulations implemented by The City to regulate size and noise that may be associated with sports ramps on residential properties. This may be related to the fact that most do not think that there are currently regulations. The findings indicate that while there is a group with negative impressions of sports ramps, this does not always translate into a lack of comfort of sports ramps on properties – if they are regulated.

**Placement and size factor in receptivity to skateboard/sports ramps on properties.** Specifically, residents would largely prefer that these ramps be placed in the backyard, and with size restrictions in place. For some, this would help alleviate the safety concerns for potential ramp users and noise related concerns that were raised. There is less clarity on the need for a development permit for a skateboard/sports ramp of any size. A small majority (60%) believe that one should be required.

The findings suggest that citizens are receptive to allowing skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties. They are largely seen as a tool that could promote physical activity and a way to entertain youth. That said there are some perceived drawbacks, even among those who have positive impressions and are comfortable with ramps. These are largely related to concerns about ramp user safety and preventing injuries. Others express concern about noise. However, a majority are comfortable with ramps on residential properties when provided context about noise regulations. The results point to differences in opinion by age that are consistent across many questions. Generally speaking, those over the age of 55 are less positive about ramps and less receptive to their allowance on residential properties.

# Introduction

## Background

In June, Council supported a Notice of Motion that directed Administration to engage with residents on sports ramps. This research on the general public opinions is part of a number of research and engagement activities related to residential skateboard/sports ramps.

The Notice of Motion (Appendix A in this report) states that skateboarding is a fun and healthy activity enjoyed by over 34,000 Calgarians each year and the current restrictions on skateboarding and other wheeled sports in Calgary are overreaching, unnecessary and prejudiced.

As a result, this representative telephone survey was undertaken to gauge the perceptions associated with allowing skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties. Specifically, the survey sought responses from Calgary residents to confirm that:

1. The 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;

2. Sport ramps within the allowable size should be exempt from the requirements of a development permit; and,

3. Proposed new amendments to the Community Standards Bylaw, as part of its comprehensive review, will address excessive noise related to sport ramp activities.

This representative telephone survey also gauges the perceptions associated with allowing skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties. The results will be used to make amendments to:

1. The Land Use Bylaw, including but not limited to, sections 344(7) and 564(7); and

2. The Community Standards Bylaw, in order to address excessive and intermittent noise related to sports ramp activities.

# Objectives

The overarching objective of this research was to gauge citizens' views, perceptions and opinions related to skateboard/sports ramps and respond to the Notice of Motion questions. This survey strived to better understand:

1. Awareness of current regulations regarding skateboard/sports ramps on private property;
2. Support for or opposition to skateboard/sports ramps on private property;
3. Opinions regarding the acceptable size;
4. Opinions regarding an exemption from a development permit;
5. Opinions about placement on the residential parcel;
6. Perceived benefits and concerns;
7. Current household participation in wheeled sports;
8. Ideas about standards and limits that could be put in place to address noise.

# Survey Methodology

Outlined below is the approach used to complete this research.

**Sampling Scheme**

A telephone survey was conducted using a stratified random sampling approach. This means the City's total population is divided into subgroups, including age, gender, and City quadrants. Survey completions were then randomly targeted for each of the subgroups, in order to yield a sample that statistically represents the actual population as closely as possible. As such, all findings presented in this report can be considered representative of the City of Calgary population.

Surveys were completed using both landline and cell phone sample. Given increased prevalence of cell phone primary and cell-only households, it is important to ensure that any sampling frame that aims to represent the general population accurately mirrors the population composition. When targeting those 18 to 34 years of age in particular, a survey is not generally considered representative if cell-phone sampling is not included in the sampling frame.

The table (on the next page) highlights the number of completions by age, gender, and City quadrant, the percentage of the sample, the actual percentage of that group in the Calgary population, and the Margin of Error associated with each group (at the 95% confidence level).

| | Quota | Completed Surveys | % of Sample | % of Population | Margin of Error |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age** | | | | | |
| 18-34* | 150 | 153 | 30% | 32% | ±7.9% |
| 35-54 | 200 | 204 | 40% | 41% | ±6.9% |
| 55 years + | 150 | 147 | 29% | 27% | ±8.1% |
| **Gender** | | | | | |
| Male | 250 | 261 | 52% | 50% | ±6.1% |
| Female | 250 | 243 | 48% | 50% | ±6.3% |
| **Quadrant** | | | | | |
| NE Calgary | 100 | 102 | 20% | 19% | ±9.8% |
| NW Calgary | 150 | 150 | 30% | 28% | ±8.0% |
| SE Calgary | 100 | 100 | 20% | 22% | ±9.8% |
| SW Calgary | 150 | 152 | 30% | 30% | ±8.0% |
| **TOTAL** | **500** | **504** | **100%** | **n/a** | **±4.4%** |

*numbers based on those aged 20 to 34 for population counts.

Harris/Decima conducted a total of 504 telephone surveys with Calgary residents. The total results are within a Margin of Error of ±4.4% at 95% confidence level. The interviews were conducted between Nov 24th and Dec 6th 2015. Please refer to Appendix B for the survey questionnaire.

The quota targets and data collection methodology were designed to obtain a representative sample of Calgary residents and appropriate screening questions were used at the beginning of the interview to establish qualification. Minor variations from the targeted completes were corrected using a weighting scheme.

Overall, the methodology adopted by Harris/Decima resulted in a sample of Calgary residents that can be considered representative of the overall Calgary population as it was collected randomly, and it mirrors the total population composition in terms of age, gender, and City quadrant of residence. Results obtained from such a sampling approach are deemed to be statistically valid and reliable estimates of reactions of Calgary residents.

Given the above explanation, in cases when results from the total respondents (n=504) are presented, the words “residents” and “Calgarians” are used.

**Limits or Constraints for Using the Data**

Survey research is intended to draw upon a sample to obtain views that represent a larger audience.

Through this research, it is not possible to determine whether there were any differences in the views and opinions of non-respondents when compared to respondents.

# Detailed Findings

## Section 1: Impressions of Residential Sports Ramps

### Notice of Motion

A key objective of this research was to gather input from residents on the three aspects of the Notice of Motion related to sports ramps. The three components of the Notice of Motion are:

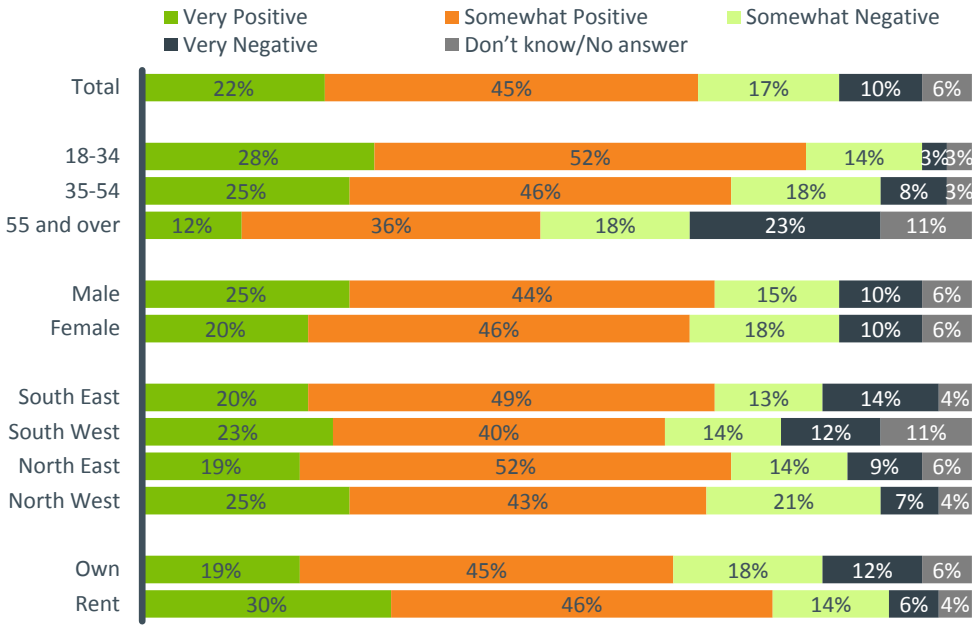
1. The proposed maximum dimensions of 1.5 meters high X 5 meters wide X 6 meters long allowed for sports ramps on private property is appropriate;
2. Sport ramps within the allowable size should be exempt from the requirements of a development permit; and,
3. Confirmation that proposed new amendments to the Community Standards Bylaw, as part of its comprehensive review, will address excessive noise related to sport ramp activities.

The findings to these three questions are presented throughout this report, under headings called “Size”, “Development Permit”, and “Noise”

## Detailed Findings

The survey began with asking general impressions of skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties and then focused on specific issues that may be present with sports ramps. The survey questions are provided in Appendix A. The findings indicate that a majority of respondents have positive impressions of skateboard/sports ramps across all quadrants of the city. Indeed, 68% respondents have either a very or somewhat positive impression about skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties. As the graph below demonstrates positive impressions of sports ramps declines with age.

**Impressions of skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties**




Q1. In general, what impression do you have of skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties? Would you say it is…?
Base: All (n=504)

The use of skateboard/sports ramps in Calgary households is fairly modest. In fact, only 14% of those surveyed had someone in the household that participates in sports using sports ramps.

Perhaps not surprising, the likelihood of household participants in sports with sports ramps is lower among respondents over the age of 55.

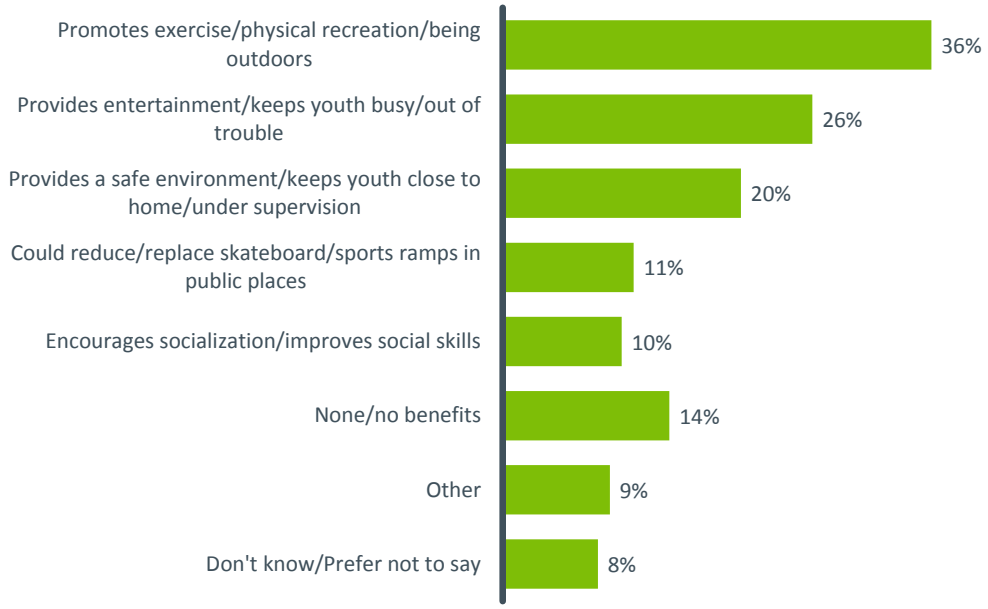
When looking at overall impressions of skateboard/sports ramps, those who participate in sports using them are much more likely to hold positive impressions of them in comparison to other households (93% versus 63%).

All respondents were asked what, if any, benefits there are in allowing skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties, irrespective of their impressions of them. This was an open ended question where respondents

provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one theme may have been given by an individual respondent.

While many benefits were identified, promoting physical exercise/activity (36%) is perceived as the main benefit. This is followed by providing entertainment for youth (26%) or providing a safe environment for youth by keeping them closer to home (20%). Fewer feel that it could replace or reduce the number of skateboard or sports ramps in public areas (11%) or that it encourages socialization (10%). Only fourteen percent of respondents see no benefits associated with skateboard/sports ramps.

**Benefits of allowing skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties**




Q2. What benefits, if any, are there in allowing skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties?
Base: All (n=504)

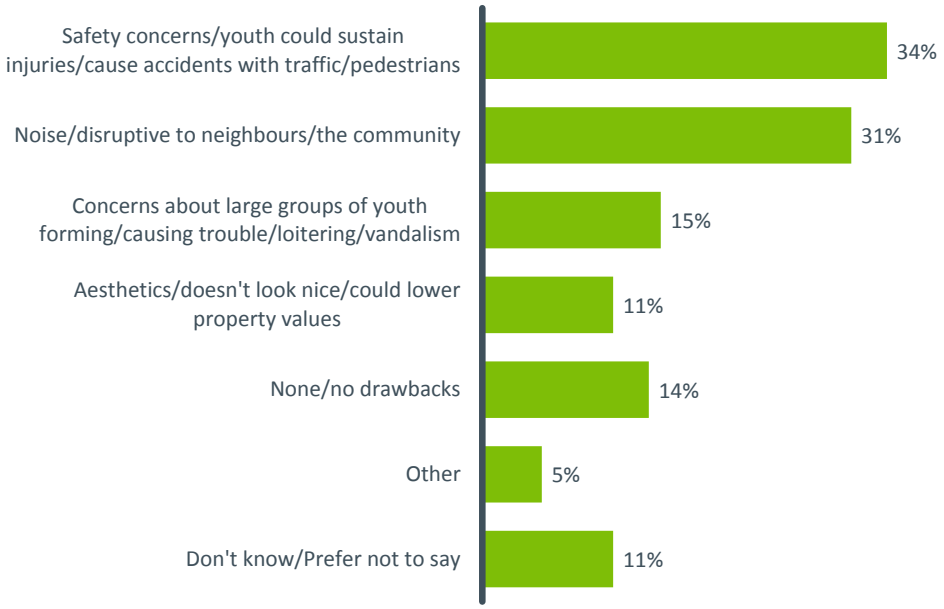
As with overall impressions of sports ramps, there are some differences in perceived benefits by age. Residents in the age groups 18-34 years (40%) and 35-54 (41%) are much more likely to say that allowing sports ramps on residential properties will promote exercise/physical activity as compared to residents 55 years and over (26%).

The data suggests that benefits can be seen among those who hold negative impressions of skateboard/sports ramps. Indeed, 19% of this group believes that they promote exercise or physical activity while slightly fewer think it would provide entertainment or a safe environment for youth close to home (both 13%). This suggests that while initial impressions may be negative among some residents, this group can also see some benefit to allowing sports ramps on residential properties.

Although respondents perceive many benefits of skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties, there are also some perceived drawbacks. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent.

When asked what drawback there would be, 34% think there are safety concerns such as injuries or accidents with traffic or pedestrians with skateboard/sports ramps. Other drawbacks identified include ramps being disruptive and noisy (31%), causing loitering and vandalism (15%) as well as aesthetic concerns resulting in the lowering of property values (11%). Lastly, 14% of respondents see no drawbacks associated with skateboard/sports ramps.

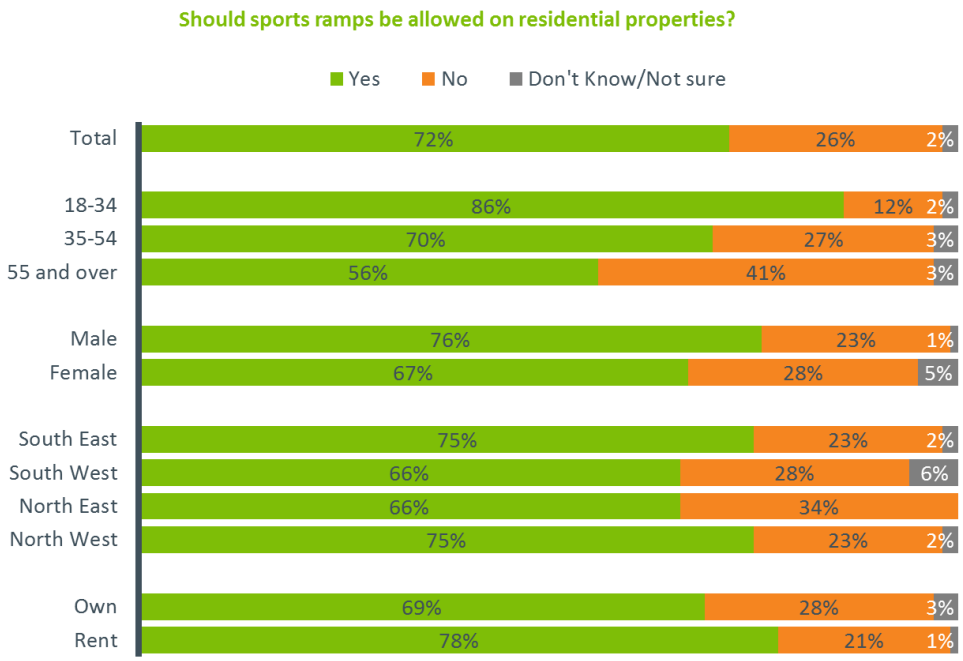
**Drawbacks of allowing skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties**




Q3. What drawbacks, if any, are there in allowing skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties?
Base: All (n=504)

The proportion of respondents mentioning noise/disruptive to neighbours as a drawback of allowing skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties increases with age (22% for those 18-34 years and 40% for those 55 years and over).

Considering the initial overall positive impressions of skateboard/sports ramps, it is not surprising that when asked if ramps should be allowed on residential properties, 72% say yes. Consistent with other findings in the research is that those 55 years or older are less likely to believe that these ramps should be on residential properties.




Q4. Do you think sports ramps should be allowed on residential properties?
Base: All (n=504)

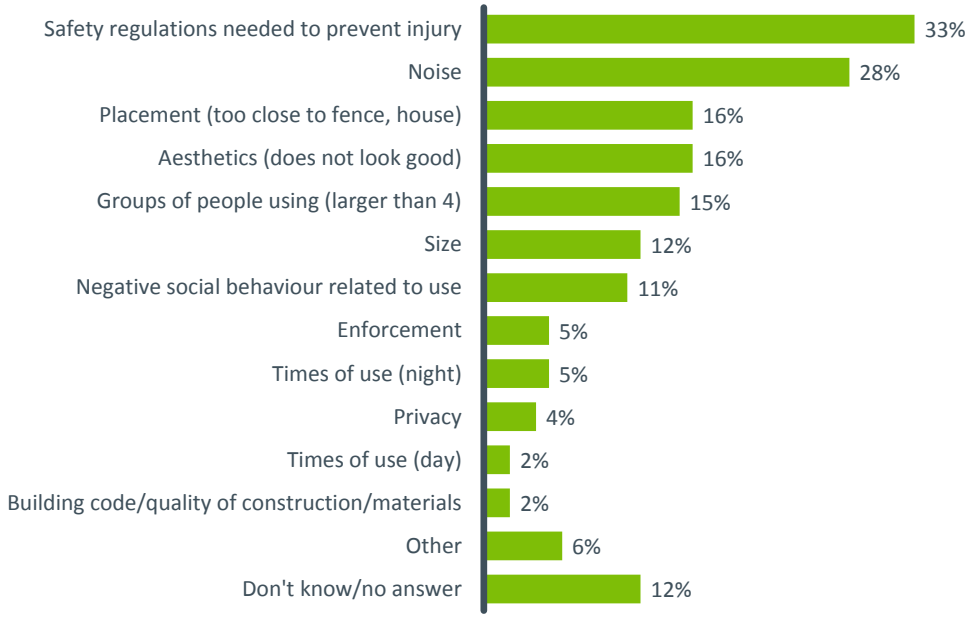
Impressions of allowing sports ramps on properties differs by impressions of them. Almost all who have a positive impression agree that they should be allowed on residential properties. That said, 22% of those with a negative impression also believe they should be allowed on residential properties.

Almost one in three respondents are not in favour (26%) or unsure (3%) of allowing skateboard or skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties.

Those who were not in favour of allowing sports ramps on residential properties were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who said no or don't know in the previous question, resulting in responses from 152 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent.

The top two reasons cited from those not in favour of allowing sports ramps, were safety regulations to prevent injury (33%) and noise (28%). A number of other factors are raised, including the placement on residential properties (16%), aesthetics (16%), large groups of people using the ramps (15%), the size of the ramps (12%), and perceived negative social behaviour related to using ramps (11%).

**Reasons for NOT allowing sports ramps on residential properties**

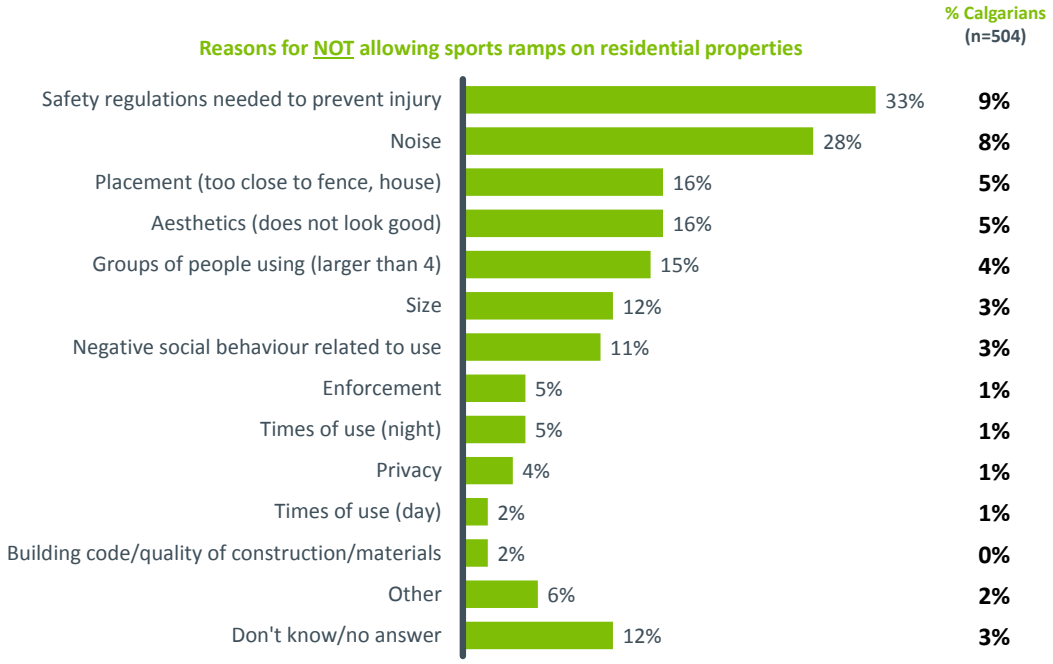



Q5. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who said sports ramps should not be allowed on residential properties OR were not sure about it (n=152)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 152 respondents who were asked this question.

**Less than 10% of Calgarians feel that sports ramps should not be allowed on residential property due to potential injury or noise concerns.**

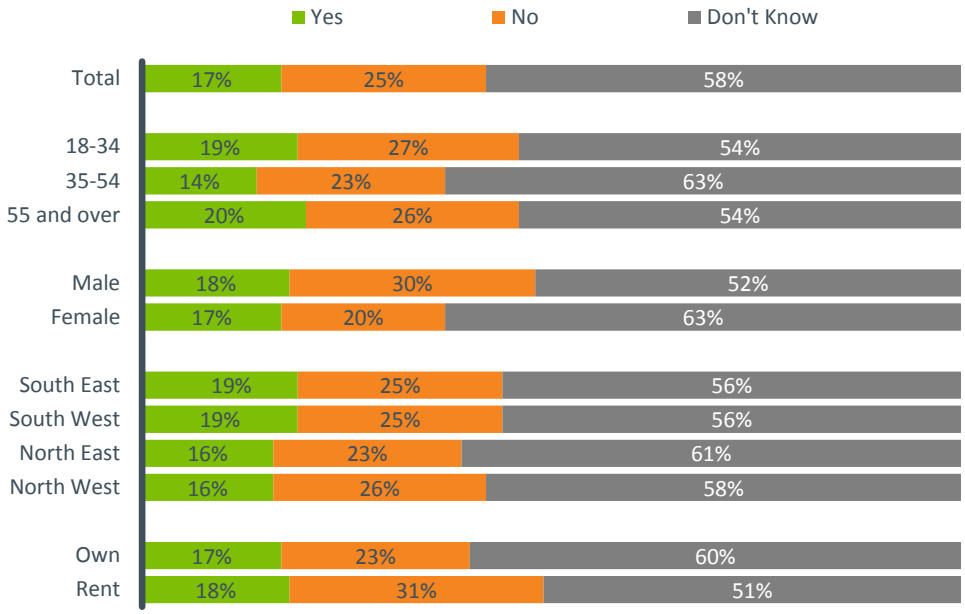
The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand what percentage of respondents have these concerns. When considering the Calgarians, one in ten (9%) say safety regulations are needed to prevent injury. Other mentions include noise (8%), placement or aesthetics (5% each), large groups of people using the ramps (4%), the size of the ramps or negative social behaviour related to use (3% each), enforcement, times of daily/nightly use and privacy (1% each).




Q5. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who said sports ramps should not be allowed on residential properties OR were not sure about it (n=152)

There is a lack of clarity among respondents on the current regulations of skateboard/sports ramps. Over half are unsure if The City currently has regulations for ramps on residential properties, while one in five respondents believe there are some in place. These findings are consistent across demographic groups.

**Awareness of regulations for sports ramps on residential properties**



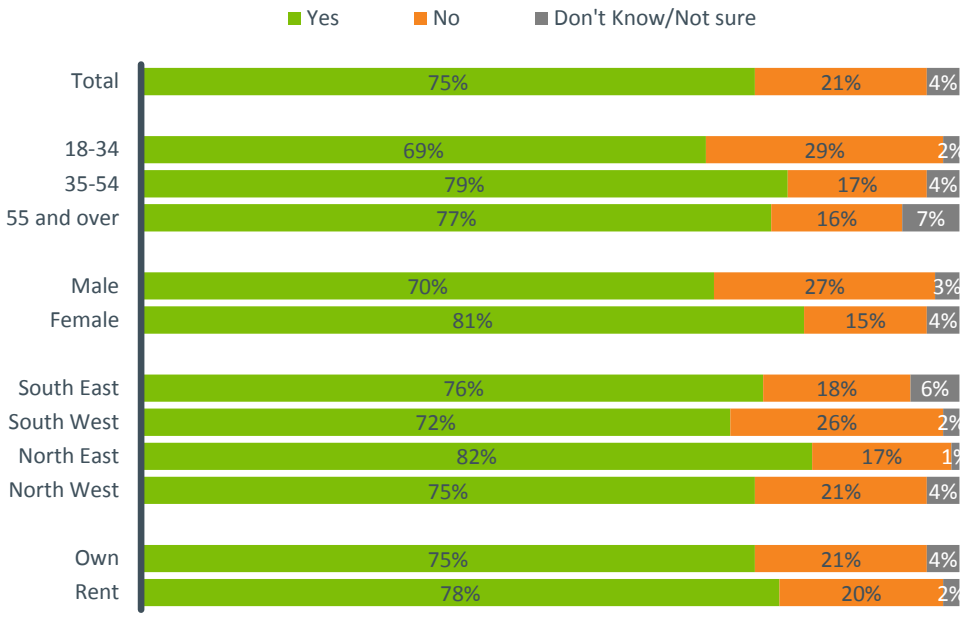

Q6. As far as you know, does The City of Calgary have regulations now for sports ramps on residential properties?
Base: All (n=504)

# Section 2: Rules for Residential Sports Ramps

## Rules for Residential Sports Ramps

The majority of respondents (75%) think that there should be rules and standards to regulate skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties; one in five respondents (21%) do not think there should be rules and standards to regulate ramps. There is a similar impression among respondents across all four quadrants. Those under the age of 35 are less apt to think that rules and standards are needed.

**Rules and standards regulating sports ramps on residential properties**



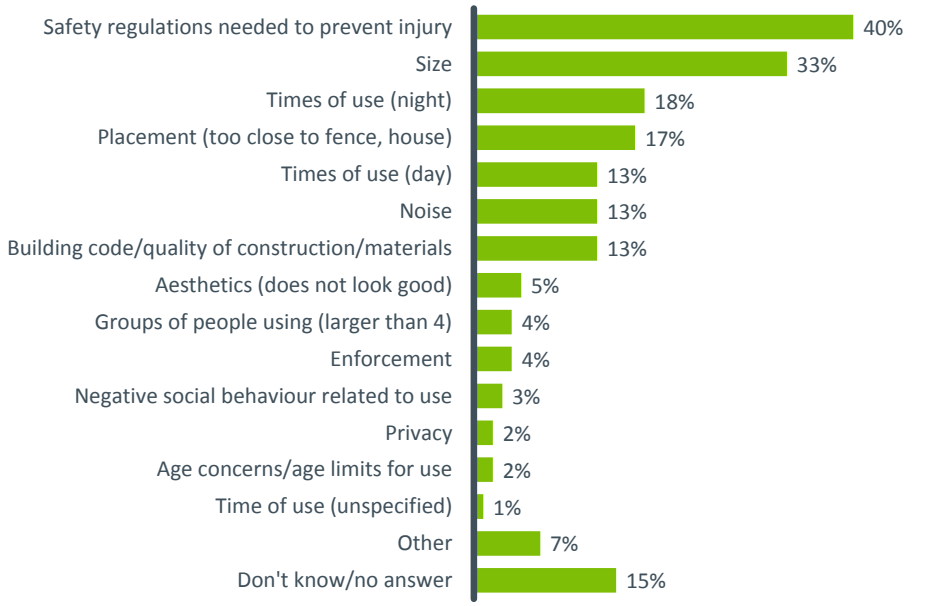

Q7. Do you think that there should be rules and standards to regulate sports ramps on residential properties?
Base: All (n=504)

There are some differences by overall impressions of skateboard/sports ramps. Those who have a negative impression are more likely than those with positive impressions to want rules and regulations on ramps (89% versus 72%).

Those who were in favour of regulations for sports ramps on residential properties were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who said yes in the previous question, resulting in responses from 383 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent.

Residents who think rules should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties (n=383) believe that safety regulations to prevent injury (40%) are required and the size (33%) of sports ramps should be regulated. Other desired standards include time of use in the evenings (18%), placement on residential property (17%), time of use during the day (13%), noise (13%) and quality of construction (13%). A number of other standards are suggested by fewer participants.

**What standards or rules should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties?**

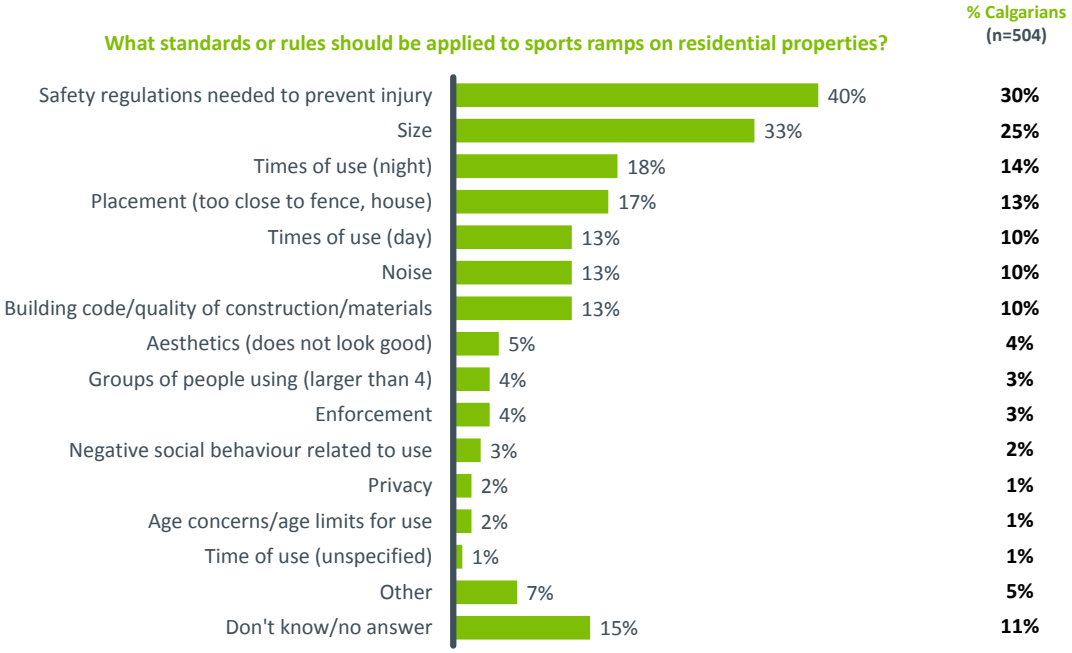



Q8. What standards or rules, if anything, should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties?
Base: Those who think rules should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties (n=383)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 383 respondents who were asked this question.

**30% of Calgarians surveyed said safety regulations are needed.**

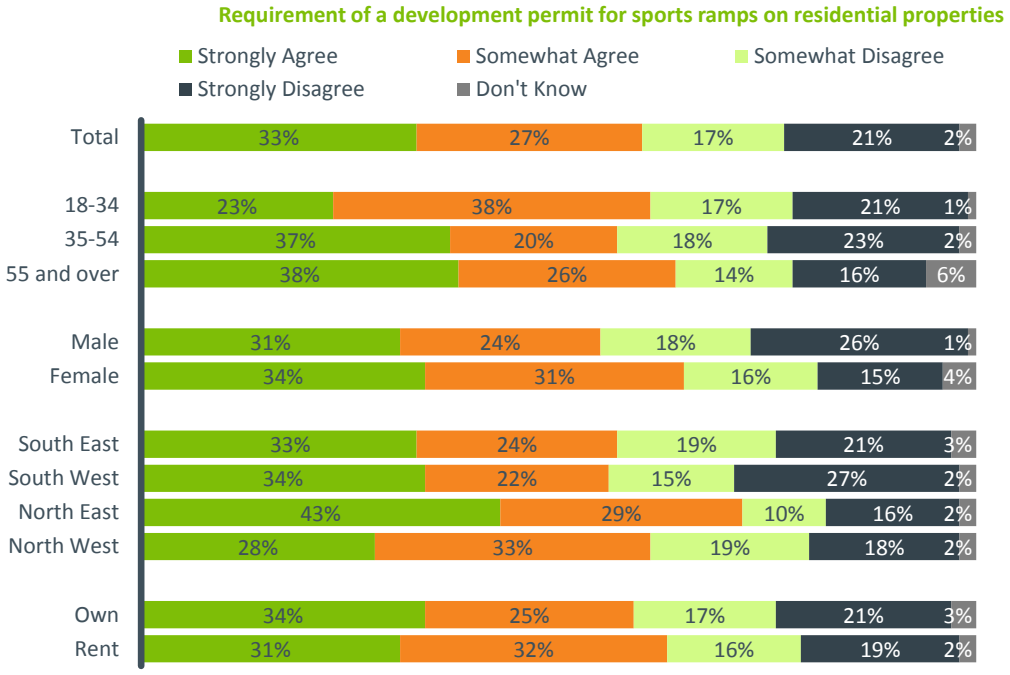
The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand what percentage of Calgarians express the reasons why rules or regulations should be required. When considering the full sample, 30% say safety regulations are needed to prevent injury and this is similar to the findings earlier on perceived drawbacks. Meanwhile, 25% say the size of skateboard/sports ramps should be regulated. Other standards or rules wanted include time of use in the evenings (14%), placement on residential property (13%), time of use during the day, noise, and the quality of construction (10% each).




Q8. What standards or rules, if anything, should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties?
Base: Those who think rules should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties (n=383)

## Development Permits for Residential Sports Ramps

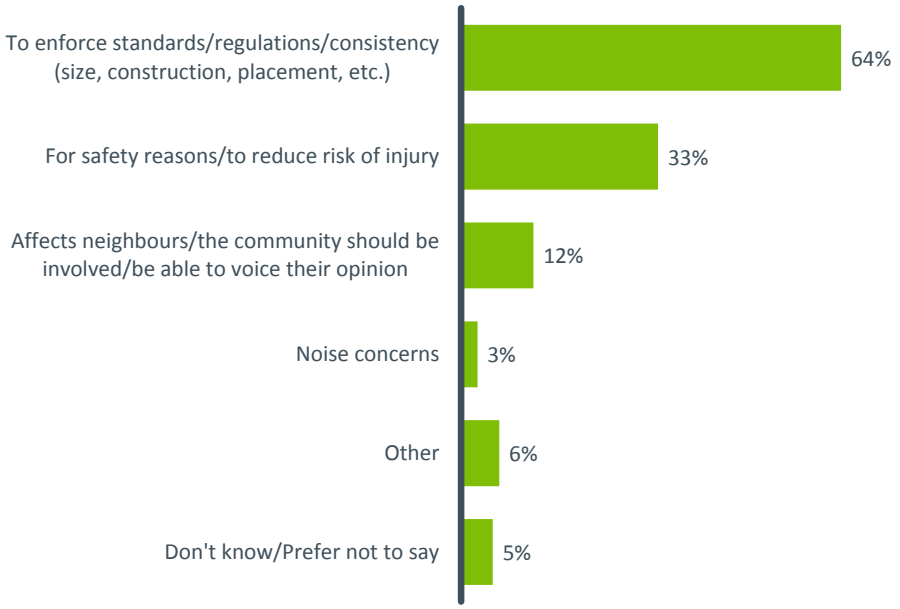
In addition to asking about rules and regulations, as presented above, respondents were asked specifically if a development permit should be required for sports ramps. A small majority (60%) of residents agree that a development permit should be required for a sports ramp on a residential property. There are some variations in opinion by quadrant. Residents of the North East quadrant (72%) are more likely to agree that a permit is needed than residents of the South East (57%) and the South West (56%) quadrants.




Q9. Do you agree or disagree that sports ramps on residential properties should require a development permit?
Base: All (n=504)

Those who agree that a development permit should be required for sports ramps on residential properties were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who strongly or somewhat agreed in the previous question, resulting in responses from 305 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent. The results show that of those who believe a permit should be required, 64% said that it will ensure that any standards or regulations that are developed will be consistent across properties. Others (33%) think that a permit should be required to reduce the risk of injury. Fewer said that a permit would address noise or enable the community to have a say regarding sports ramps.

**Reasons for Support to a Development Permit**

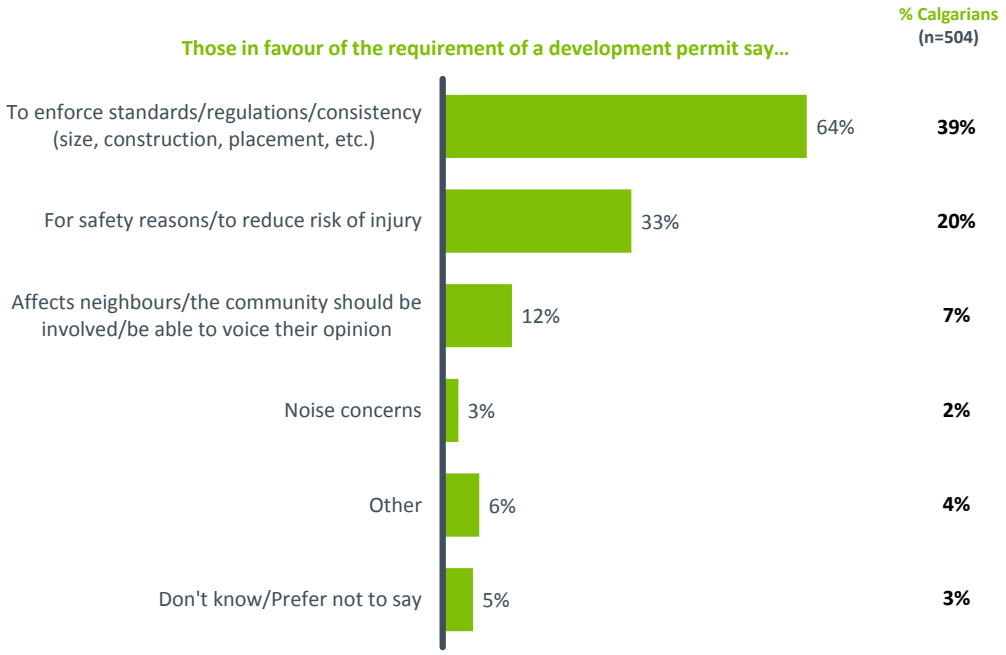



Q10. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who agree (either strongly or somewhat) that a development permit is required (n=305)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 305 respondents who were asked this question.

**39% of Calgarians surveyed said a development permit would ensure consistent standards.**

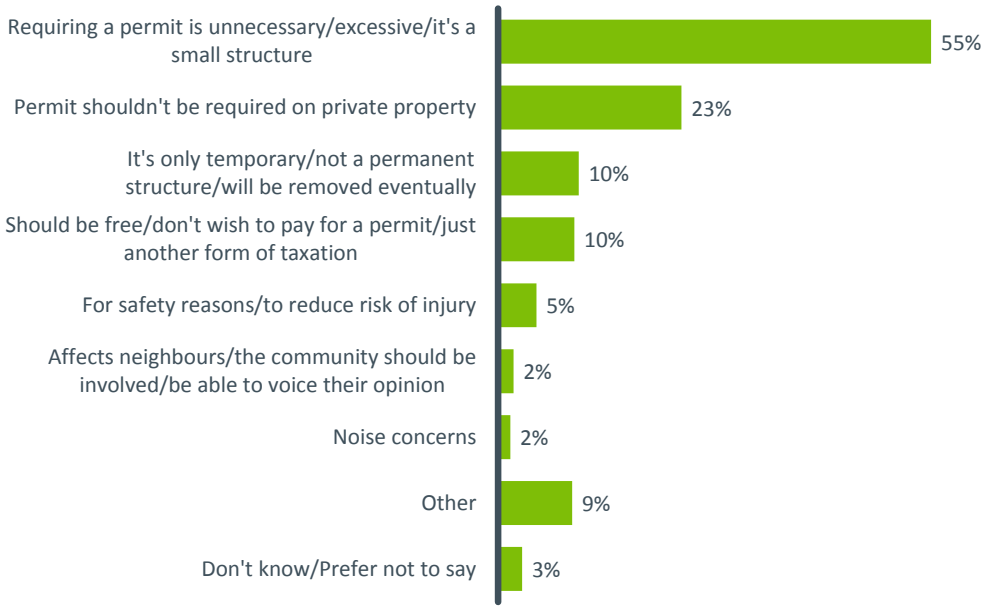
The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand what percentage of Calgarians express the reasons why a development permit should be required. When considering the overall sample, the primary reason for requiring a permit is to enforce standards or consistency across properties. Indeed, respondents (39%) believe the requirement of a development permit is necessary to ensure consistent standards across properties, while 20% indicate that a permit should be required to reduce the risk of injury.




Q10. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who agree (either strongly or somewhat) that a developmental permit is required(n=305)

Those who disagree that a development permit should be required for sports ramps on residential properties were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who strongly or somewhat disagreed in the previous question, resulting in responses from 186 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent. Over half (55%) believe that requiring a development permit is unnecessary and expensive. Fewer think that a permit should not be required on private property, while 10% also indicated that the structure is only temporary or should be free.

**Reasons for Opposition to a Development Permit**

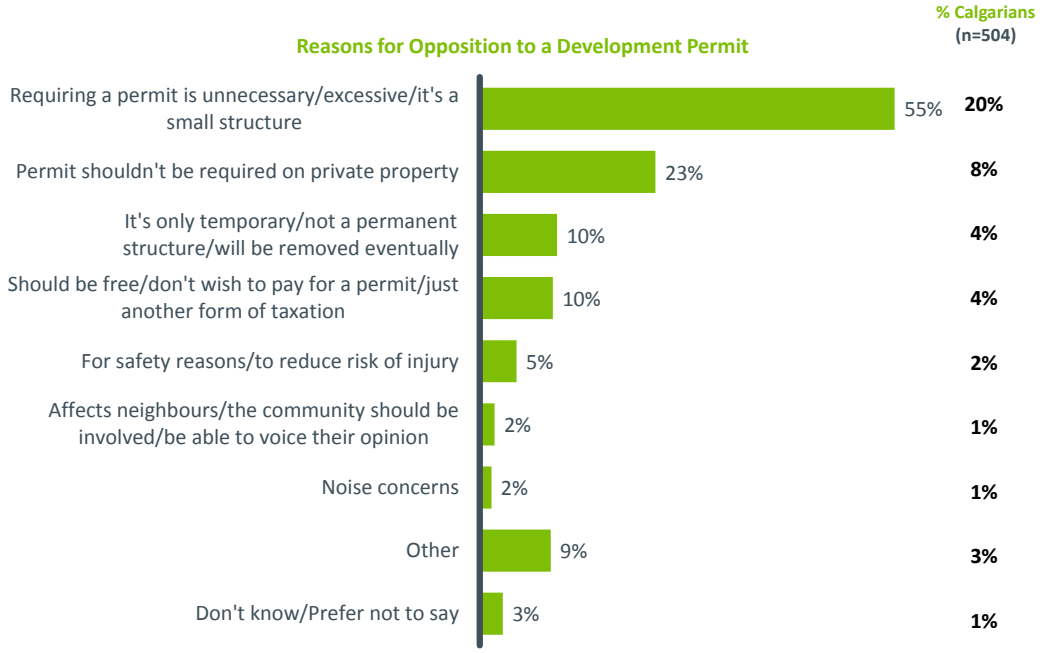



Q10. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who disagree (either strongly or somewhat) that a development permit is required (n=186)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 186 respondents who were asked this question.

**20% of Calgarians surveyed say a development permit is unnecessary and expensive.**

The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand what percentage of Calgarians express the reasons why a development permit should not be required. When considering the full sample, 20% of respondents believe the requirement of a development permit is unnecessary and expensive. Meanwhile, close to one in ten (8%) believe a permit should not be required on private property.

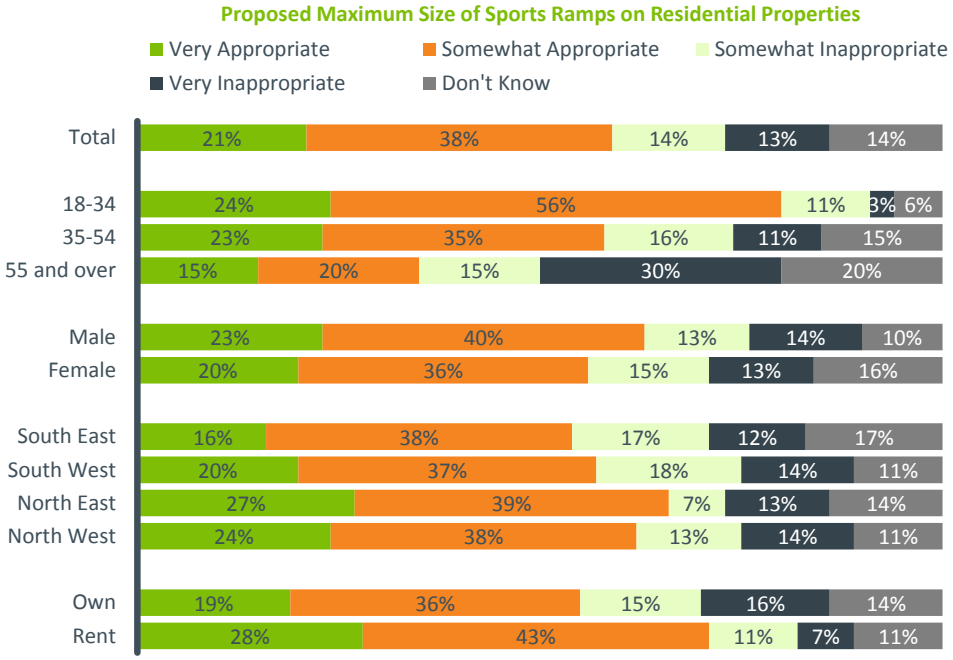



Q10. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who disagree (either strongly or somewhat) that a development permit is required (n=186)

## Size

Residents were informed that the proposed maximum size of skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties is 1.5 meters high (5 feet), 5 meters wide (16 feet) and 6 meters long (20 feet). With these parameters in mind, 59% consider these dimensions appropriate for residential properties.

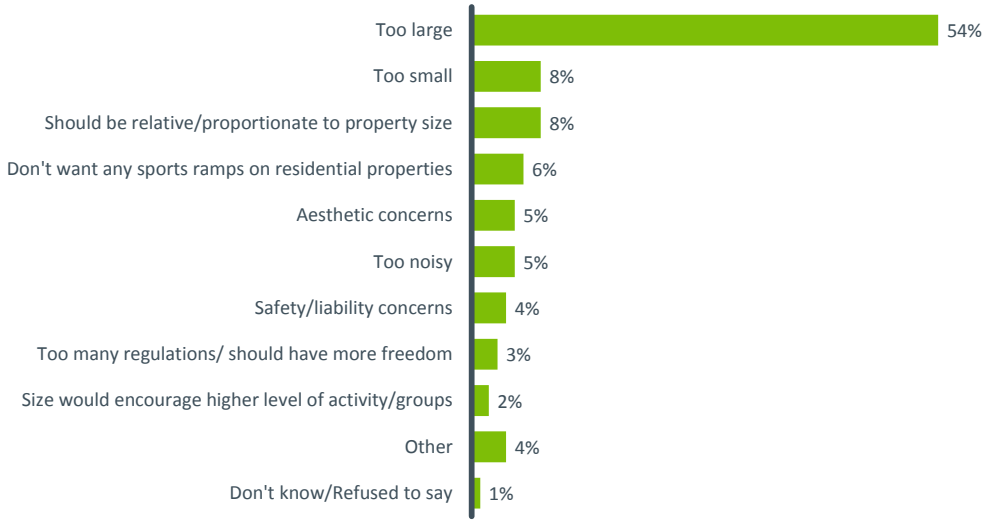
There are some differences in opinion by age. Those under the age of 55 are much more likely to approve of the proposed maximum size in comparison to older residents. As well, those who rent are more likely to consider them appropriate in comparison to homeowners.




Q11. The proposed maximum size of sports ramps on residential properties is 5 feet high, 16 feet wide and 20 feet long. How appropriate do you think that proposed maximum size is?
Base: All (n=504)

Those who think that the proposed size is inappropriate were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who felt the size was somewhat or very inappropriate in the previous question, resulting in responses from 142 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent. Indeed, 54% believe the proposed size is too large. Meanwhile, 8% each believe the proposed size is too small or the ramp should be proportionate to the property size. Fewer do not want skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties at all (6%), have aesthetic issues or are concerned about noise (both 5%).

**Reasons Why Size is Not Appropriate**

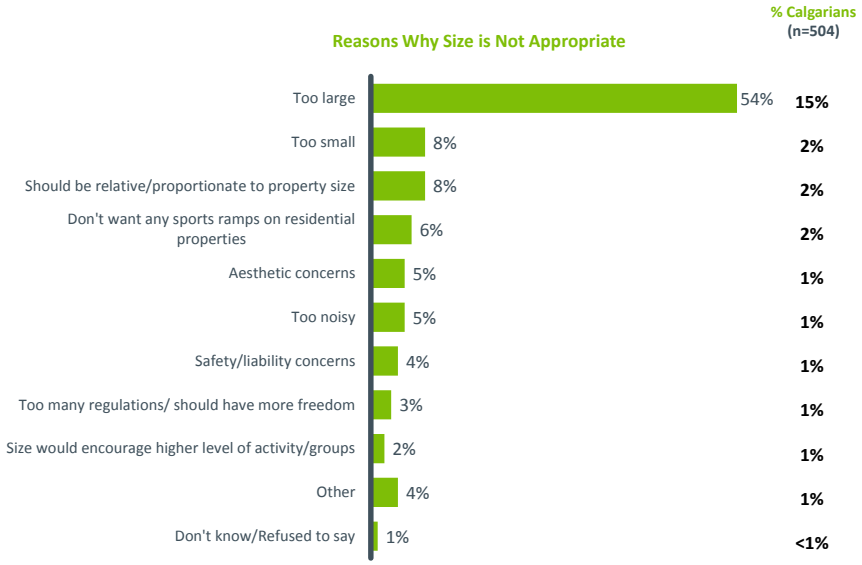



Q12. Why is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties inappropriate?
Base: Those who think the proposed maximum size is inappropriate (n=142)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 142 respondents who were asked this question.

**15% of Calgarians surveyed believe the proposed maximum size is too large.**

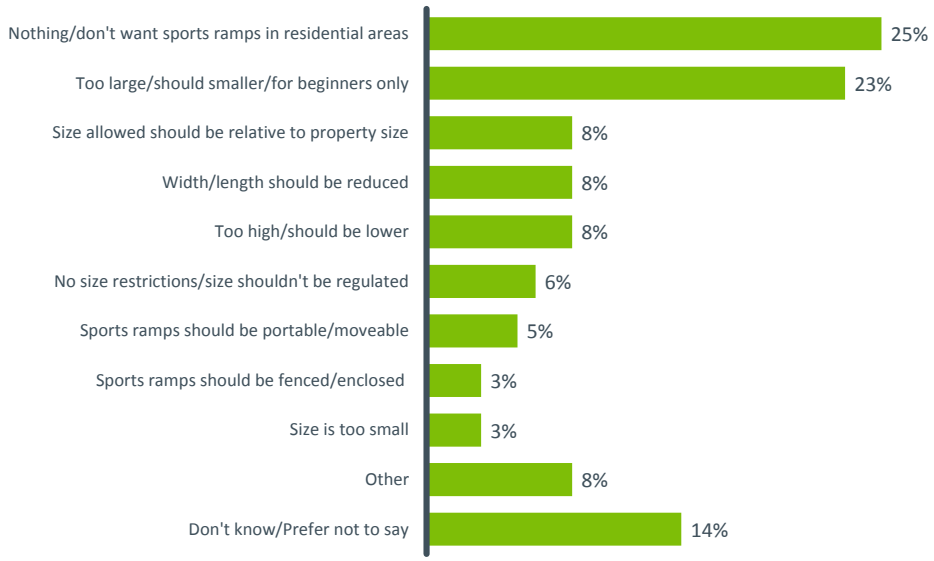
The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand what percentage of Calgarians express the reasons why the proposed size of the sports ramp is inappropriate. When extrapolated to the full sample, 15% believe the proposed maximum size of skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties is too large. Fewer believe the proposed size is too small, the ramp should be proportionate to the property size and do not want sports ramps on residential properties (2% each).




Q12. Why is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties inappropriate?
Base: Those who think the proposed maximum size is inappropriate (n=142)

Those who think that the proposed size is inappropriate were asked what if anything could make them feel more comfortable with sports ramps. This question was asked of those who felt the size was somewhat or very inappropriate in the previous question, resulting in responses from 142 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. As a result, the percentages shown will sum to greater than 100% as more than one them may have been given by an individual respondent. One quarter (25%) indicate that nothing will make the proposed size acceptable. Similarly, one quarter (23%) believe the size should be smaller and fewer believe the size should be proportionate to property size or it should be reduced (8% each).

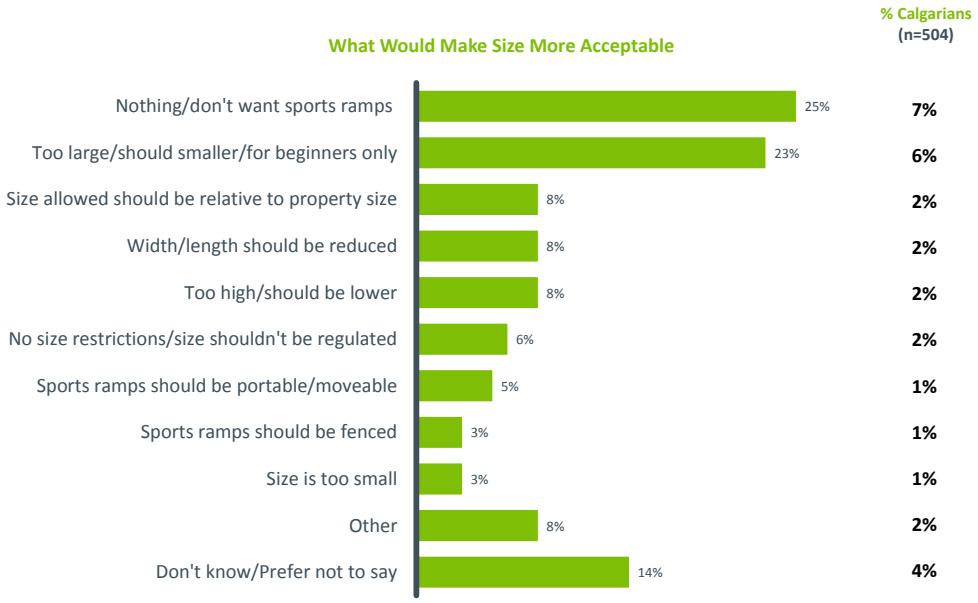
**What Would Make Maximum Size More Acceptable?**




Q13. What, if anything, would make the size of sports ramps on residential properties more acceptable to you?
Base: Those who think the proposed maximum size is inappropriate (n=142)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 142 respondents who were asked this question.

The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand what percentage of Calgarians would be amenable to change to make sports ramps more acceptable. Overall, 7% of respondents say that nothing would make the size of skateboard/sports ramps more acceptable to them on residential properties. Others suggest that the size is too large (6%). Other modifications proposed were suggested by fewer residents.



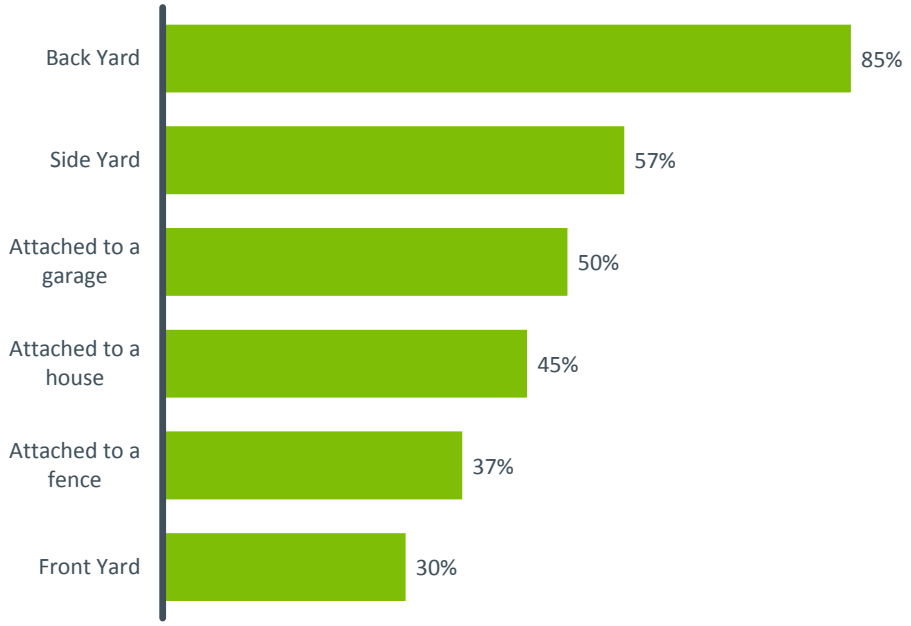

Q13. What, if anything, would make the size of sports ramps on residential properties more acceptable to you?
Base: Those who think the proposed maximum size is inappropriate (n=142)

## Location of Sports Ramps

All survey participants were asked where skateboard/sports ramps should be located on residential properties, irrespective of their views of ramps, regulations, and development permit requirements. Each respondent was able to provide more than one response. As a result, percentages will be greater than 100%

The backyard is the preferred spot for ramps for a majority of residents, at 85%. Fewer would like them on side yard (57%) attached to a garage (50%), house (45%) or fence (37%). The front yard is the least favourable place for sports ramps on residential properties, with 30% of residents identifying this as their preferred placement.

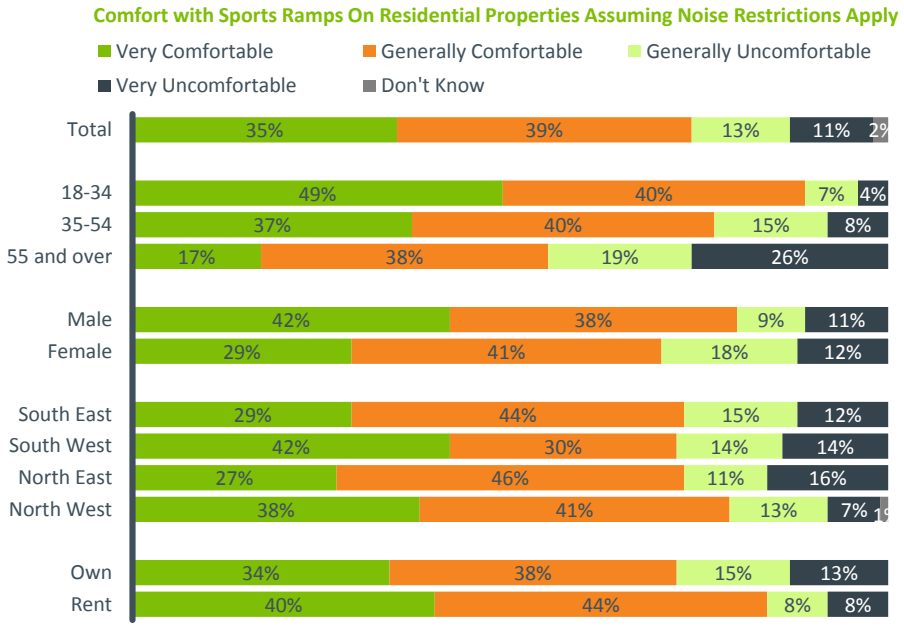
**Preferred Placement of Sports Ramp on Property**




Q14. Do you think sports ramps should be allowed on the following areas on residential lots?
Base: All Respondents (n=504)

## Noise

Participants were provided with information about the current time restrictions related to noise that would apply to sports ramps. Assuming noise from sports ramp activities would be restricted between 10pm and 7am on weekdays and 10pm and 9am on weekends, three quarters of residents (74%) say they are comfortable with skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties. As the graph below demonstrates, comfort with ramps when considering noise restrictions decreases with age. As well, renters are more comfortable with sports ramps when considering noise in comparison to homeowners.

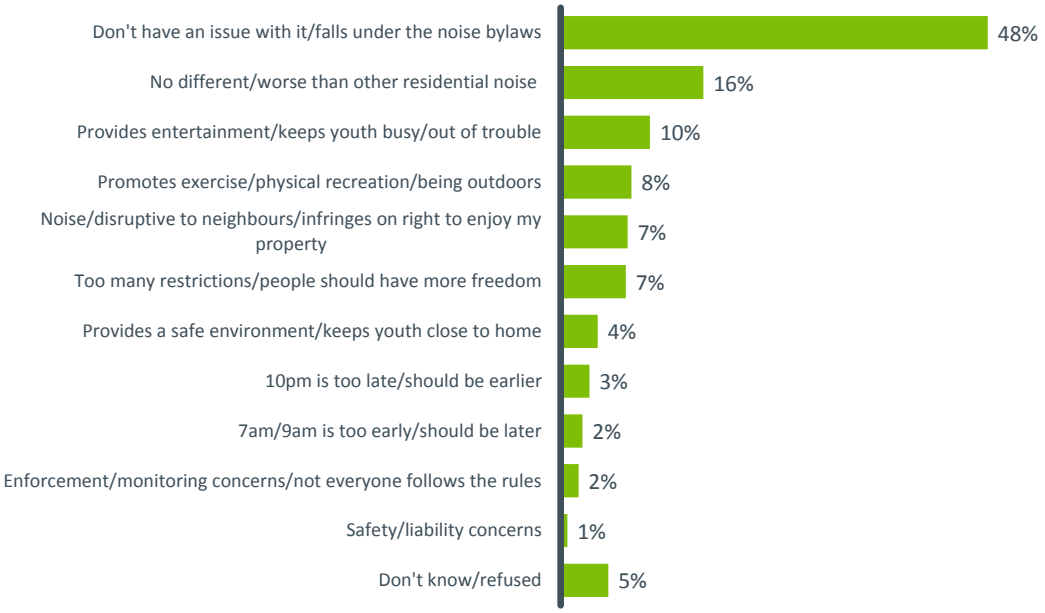



Q16. Assuming noise from sports ramp activities would be restricted between 10pm and 7am on weekdays and 10pm and 9am on weekends, how comfortable or uncomfortable would you be if sports ramps were allowed on residential properties? Base: All respondents (n=504)

**74% of Calgarians surveyed say they are comfortable with skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties, assuming noise would be restricted at night.**

Those who were comfortable with sports ramps were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who very or somewhat comfortable with sports ramps with the current night-time noise restrictions in the previous question, resulting in responses from 370 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. Among those who are comfortable with skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties, 48% find the noise restrictions at night to be reasonable. Meanwhile, 16% find the anticipated sport ramp noise no different than other residential noises.

**Reasons Why Comfortable with Sports Ramps Assuming Noise Restrictions**

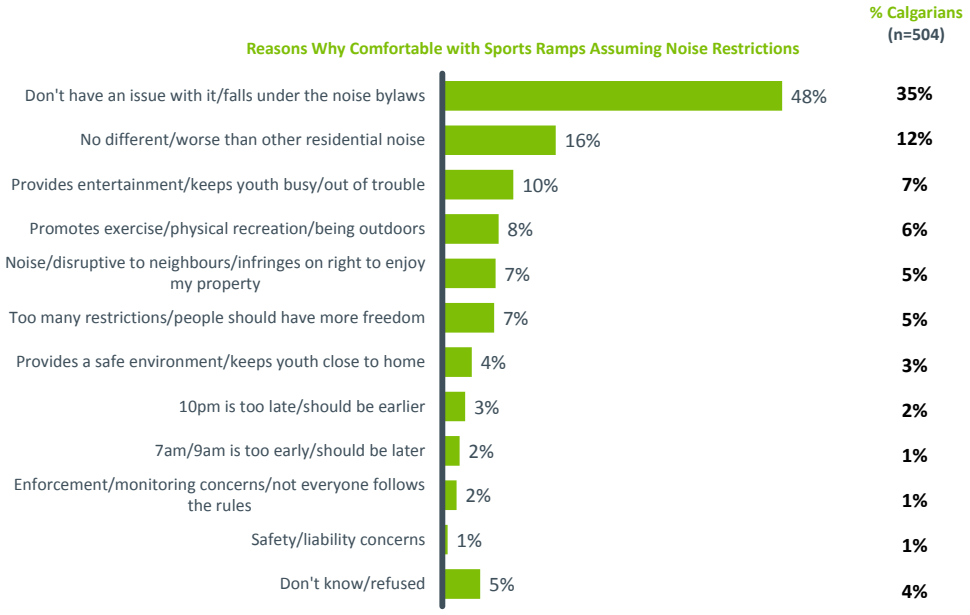



Q17. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who are comfortable with sports ramps on residential properties, assuming the noise restrictions apply (n=370)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 370 respondents who were asked this question.

**35% of Calgarians surveyed are comfortable with sport ramp noise if restricted at night, because they don't have an issue with the noise or it falls within existing bylaw provisions.**

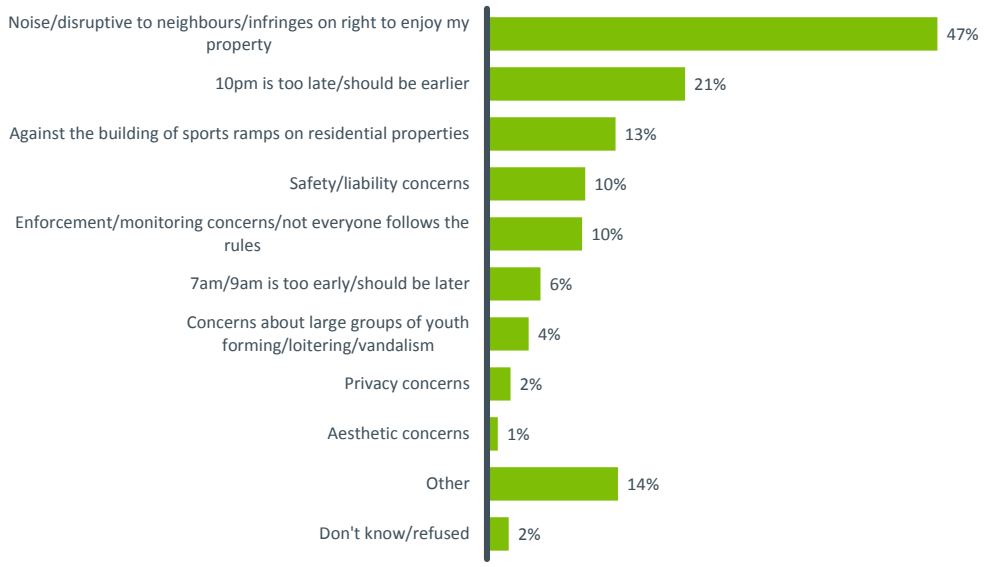
The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand the reasons for comfort across the full sample, representative of Calgarians. When considering the full sample, 35% say they would find the noise restrictions at night to be reasonable. Meanwhile, 12% anticipate that skateboard/sports ramp noise will be no different than other residential noises, while fewer believe sports ramps provide entertainment for youth (7%), promote exercise (6%), are noisy or have too many restrictions (5% respectively).




Q17. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who are comfortable with sports ramps on residential properties, assuming the noise restrictions apply (n=370)

Those who were uncomfortable with sports ramps were asked why they felt that way. This question was asked of those who very or somewhat uncomfortable with sports ramps with the current noise restrictions in the previous question, resulting in responses from 132 respondents in the survey. Again, this was an open ended question where respondents provided their responses which were then grouped into themes. Among those who are uncomfortable current time restrictions that would apply to skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties (n=132), 47% view it as an infringement to their right to enjoy their own property. Meanwhile, 21% find the time (10 p.m.) too late, while 13% are against sports ramps on residential properties, and others have concerns about the safety of users or how the noise would be enforced (10% each).

**Reasons Why Uncomfortable with Sports Ramps Assuming Noise Restrictions**

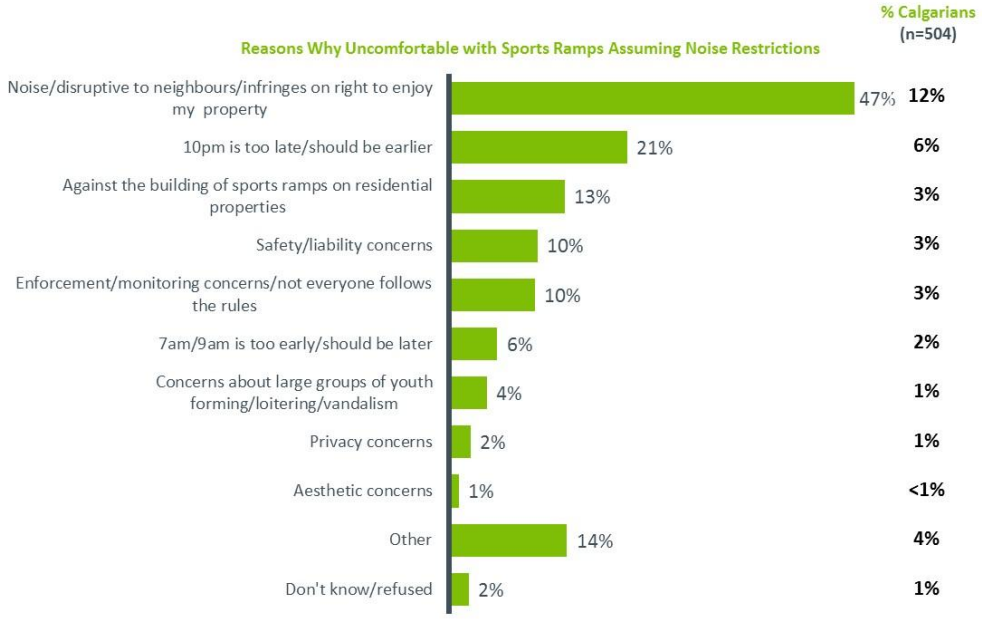



Q17. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who are uncomfortable with sports ramps on residential properties, assuming the noise restrictions apply (n=132)

The data presented above highlight the percentages based on the 132 respondents who were asked this question.

**12% of Calgarians surveyed said sport ramp noise would be disruptive.**

The percentages were also calculated back to the full sample to understand the reasons for discomfort across the full sample, representative of Calgarians. Overall, 12% say they would find the noise disruptive and an infringement to their right to enjoy their property. Fewer say they are uncomfortable because the time (10pm) is too late (6%).




Q17. Why do you say that?
Base: Those who are uncomfortable with sports ramps on residential properties, assuming the noise restrictions apply (n=132)

# Section 3: Conclusions

**Notice of Motion Findings**

**The Notice of Motion generally asks three key questions and the findings are summarized below**:

1. How appropriate is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties?

*Overall, 59% are comfortable with the proposed size of sports ramps on residential properties. These findings vary by age and home ownership. Perceived appropriateness declines with age. As well, home owners are less likely to feel that the proposed size is appropriate compared to renters (55% vs. 71%).*

2. Should sports ramps within the allowable size be exempt from the requirements of a development permit?

*In total, 60% of respondents agree that a development permit should be required for skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties. Residents in the North East Quadrant are most likely to agree that a permit should be required. There are no differences in opinion between owners and renters.*

3. 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. Citizens were asked how comfortable they would be if the noise associated with sport ramp activities is restricted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends.

*In general, a majority of residents are comfortable with sports ramps in their neighbourhood, assuming that noise would be restricted between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekends. Indeed, 74% say they are very or somewhat comfortable with the ramps and the associated noise regulations. Homeowners appear somewhat less comfortable with ramps and the perceived noise than renters (71% vs. 85%).*

**Other Findings**

Overall, the findings suggest that there is receptivity to allowing skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties. They are largely seen as a tool that could promote physical activity and a way to entertain youth. That said there are some perceived drawbacks, even among those who have positive impressions and are comfortable with ramps. These are largely related to safety concerns in preventing injuries. However, when assuming that noise from sports ramp activities will be restricted at night, a majority are comfortable with ramps on residential properties. There is less clarity on the requirement for a development permit. A small majority (60%) would expect the City to require one – however, 38% of respondents do not believe one is necessary.

Demographically, the results point to differences in opinion by age that are consistent across many questions. Generally speaking, those over the age of 55 are less positive about ramps and less receptive to their allowance on residential properties. When considering City quadrant, the findings are largely consistent across sectors. As outlined above when considering the Notice of Motion, home owners are somewhat less comfortable with sports ramps in comparison to renters.

These findings suggest that there would not likely be widespread opposition should The City allow skateboard/sports ramps on residential properties without a development permit. However, the strategies proposed to minimize impacts on neighbours should be included in any communications about sport ramps. This includes placement, maximum size, as well as the noise restrictions that would be in place.

# Appendix A: Survey Questionnaire

**The City of Calgary Sport Ramp Survey**

## Quota Structure:

| Age | Quota | Gender | Quota | City Quadrant | Targets |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| 18-34 | 150 | Male | 250 | NE Calgary | 100 |
| 35-54 | 200 | Female | 250 | NW Calgary | 150 |
| 55+ | 150 | | | SE Calgary | 100 |
| | | | | SW Calgary | 150 |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL | **500** | TOTAL | **500** | TOTAL | **500** |

*The target is to have a 40%/60% - landline/cell phone sample composition. The categorization should be based on the response. Cell phone calling needs to be conducted first, followed by landline calling to fill in quotas cells.*

## INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling on behalf of Nielsen for The City of Calgary. We are conducting a survey on skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. The results will be reported in broad categories and all your answers will remain confidential. This survey is registered with the National Survey Database.

Would you be willing to take part in this survey?

1. Yes **[CONTINUE]**
2. No **[THANK AND TERMINATE]**

INSERT SURVEY REGISTRATION INFORMATION HERE

## SECTION A: SCREENING QUESTIONS

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

A1. And, just to confirm, have I reached you on a landline phone or a cell phone?

1. Landline **CONTINUE to A1C**
2. Cell phone **CONTINUE**
9. Don't know/Refused [DNR] **THANK AND TERMINATE**

**[Base: A1=2]**

A1A. For your safety, are you currently driving?

1. Yes **SCHEDULE CALLBACK**
2. No **CONTINUE**
3. Don't know/Refused [DNR] **THANK AND TERMINATE**

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

QS1. Are you a resident of Calgary?

1. Yes
2. No **[THANK AND TERMINATE]**
9. Prefer not to say **[THANK AND TERMINATE]**

**[BASE: QS1=1]**

**QS3.** Gender [DO NOT ASK: RECORD BY OBSERVATION]

1. Male
2. Female

**[BASE: QS1=1]**

**QS2.** What is your six digit postal code?

_ _ _ _ _ _

9. Prefer not to say [DNR] **[THANK AND TERMINATE]**

[PN: City quadrant will be based on the first three letters of the postal code]

| FSA | Quadrant |
|---|---|
| T1X | NE |
| T1Y | NE |
| T1Z | NE |
| T2A | NE |
| T2B | SE |
| T2C | SE |
| T2E | NE |
| T2G | SE |
| T2H | SE |
| T2J | SE |
| T2K | NW |
| T2L | NW |
| T2M | NW |
| T2N | NW |
| T2P | SW |
| T2R | SW |
| T2S | SW |
| T2T | SW |
| T2V | SW |
| T2W | SW |
| T2X | SE |
| T2Y | SW |
| T2Z | SE |
| T3A | NW |
| T3B | NW |
| T3C | SW |

| | |
|---|---|
| T3E | SW |
| T3G | NW |
| T3H | SW |
| T3J | NE |
| T3K | NW |
| T3L | NW |
| T3M | SE |
| T3N | NE |
| T3P | NW |
| T3R | NW |
| T3S | SE |
| T3Z | SW |

**[BASE: QS1=1]**

**QS4A.** Which of the following age categories do you fall into?

READ LIST

1. 18 to 34 years
2. 35 to 49 years
3. 50 to 54 years
4. 55 to 64 years
5. 65+
6. DO NOT READ: Refused → **TERMINATE**

**[THE RESPONDENT HAS NOW QUALIFIED FOR THE SURVEY]**

**[PN: CREATE A BACKGROUND VARIABLE FOR MONITORING CELL/LANDLINE QUOTAS]**

[LOGIC: A1=1; Code as landline. A1=2; Code as Cell phone]

**Please think about your local neighbourhood when answering the following questions.**

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q1. In general, what impression do you have of skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties? Would you say it is…?

4. Very positive

3. Somewhat positive

2. Somewhat negative

1. Very negative

99. Don't know/no answer

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q2. What benefits, if any, are there in allowing skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties?

RECORD RESPONSE

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q3. What drawbacks, if any, are there in allowing skateboard or sports ramps on residential properties?

RECORD RESPONSE

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q4. Do you think sports ramps should be allowed on residential properties?

2. Yes
1. No
9. Don't know/Not sure

**[IF NewQ4=2 or 9]**

Q5. Why do you say that?

[OPEN ENDED]

Pre-code list [DO NOT READ]

Size

Noise

Enforcement

Negative social behaviour related to use

Times of use (day)

Times of use (night)

Groups of people using (larger than 4)

Aesthetics (does not look good)

Placement (too close to fence, house or area where I recreate)

Privacy

Other (specify)

Don't know/no answer

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q6. As far as you know, does The City of Calgary have regulations now for sports ramps on residential properties?

Yes

No

Don't know/Not sure

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q7. Do you think that there should be rules and standards to regulate sports ramps on residential properties?

2. Yes
1. No
9. Don't know/Not sure

**[IF Q7=1 or 9]**

Q8. What standards or rules, if anything, should be applied to sports ramps on residential properties?

[OPEN ENDED]

Size

Noise

Enforcement

Negative social behaviour related to use

Times of use (day)

Times of use (night)

Groups of people using (larger than 4)

Aesthetics (does not look good)

Placement (too close to fence, house or area where I recreate)

Privacy

Other (SPECIFY) _____

Don't know/no answer

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q9. Do you agree or disagree that sports ramps on residential properties should require a development permit?

4. Strongly agree
3. Somewhat agree
2. Somewhat disagree

1. Strongly disagree

99. Don't know/no answer

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q10. Why do you say that?

RECORD RESPONSE – DO NOT PROBE

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q11. The proposed maximum size of sports ramps on residential properties is 5 feet high, 16 feet wide and 20 feet long. How appropriate do you think the proposed maximum size?

INTERVIEWER NOTE IF ASKED: this is 1.5 meters high, 5 meters wide and 6 meters long

4. Very appropriate
3. Somewhat appropriate
2. Somewhat inappropriate
1. Very inappropriate
9. Don't know/Refused to say

**[BASE: Q11=1, 2]**

Q12. Why is the proposed maximum size for sports ramps on residential properties inappropriate?

Too large

Too small

Other _____

**[IF Q11=1 or 2]**

Q13. What, if anything, would make the size of sports ramps on residential properties more acceptable to you?

[OPEN ENDED]

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q14. Do you think sports ramps should be allowed on the following areas on residential lots?

a. Front yard
b. Back yard
c. Side yard

Yes

No

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q15. And do you think sports ramps should be allowed on the following areas on residential lots?

a. Attached to a fence
b. Attached to a house
c. Attached to a garage

Yes

No

The noise associated with sports ramp activities, like skateboarding, rollerblading, BMXing, and scootering, is being reviewed by The City.

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q16. Assuming noise from sports ramp activities would be restricted between 10pm and 7am on weekdays and 10pm and 9am on weekends, how comfortable or uncomfortable would you be if sports ramps were allowed on residential properties?

4. Very comfortable

3. Generally comfortable

2. Generally uncomfortable

1. Very uncomfortable

9. Don't know/Prefer not to say

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q17. Why do you say that?

RECORD RESPONSE – DO NOT PROBE

**[BASE: ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS]**

Q18. Does anyone in your household currently participate in any sports using sports ramps?

2. Yes
1. No
99. Don't know/no answer

## DEMOGRAPHICS

*I now have a few questions to finish up the survey….Please be assured that your responses will be kept confidential*

**DEM1.** Which of the following, if any, is the highest educational or professional qualification you have obtained?

1. Less than High School
2. Completed some High School
3. Graduated from High School
4. Trade Certificate or Diploma
5. Certificate or Diploma from Community College, Institution, CEGEP
6. Teaching Certificate from Provincial Department of Education
7. Completed some University Study, but no Degree
8. University Certificate or Diploma below Bachelor Level
9. Bachelor or First Professional Degree
10. Graduate or Professional Degree above Bachelor Level
99. Prefer not to say

**DEM2.** Which of the following best describes your employment status?

1. Working full-time, that is, 35 or more hours per week
2. Working part-time, that is, less than 35 hours per week
3. Self-employed
4. Unemployed, but looking for work
5. A student attending school full-time
6. Retired

7. Not in the workforce (i.e. full-time homemaker, unemployed, not looking for work)
8. Other
9. Prefer not to say

**DEM3.** Which of the following best describes your current home?

1. Single detached
2. Semi-detached or duplex
3. Town home or multi-residential building
4. Farm
5. Rural lot
9. Don't know/Refused to say [DNR]

**DEM4.** Do you currently own or rent your residence?

1. Own
2. Rent
9. Don't know/Refused to say [DNR]

**DEM5.** How long have you been a resident of Calgary?

1. Less than a year
2. 1 to less than 5 years
3. 5 to less than 10 years
4. 10 to less than 15 years
5. 15 years or more

**Those are all the questions I have for you today.**

**Thank you for taking part in the survey!**

# Appendix B: Notice of Motion

NM2015-14

THE CITY OF CALGARY
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

RECEIVED NM

2015 JUN 18 AM 8:51

THE CITY OF CALGARY
CITY CLERK'S

**NOTICE OF MOTION**
CC 661 (R2009-05)

2015 June 19

RE: SPORTS RAMPS

COUNCILLOR WOOLLEY

WHEREAS skateboarding is a fun and healthy activity enjoyed by over 34,000 Calgarians each year, that also fosters a greater sense of community;

AND WHEREAS skateboarding is an inclusive, inexpensive and mainstream sport;

AND WHEREAS it is prudent to allow people to choose how they recreate on their private property;

AND WHEREAS the current restrictions on skateboarding and other wheeled sports in Calgary are overreaching, unnecessary and prejudiced;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

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 sport 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.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration report back to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community & Protective Services with a collaborative report, including proposed amendments, no later than Q2 2016.

Signature of Member(s) of Council