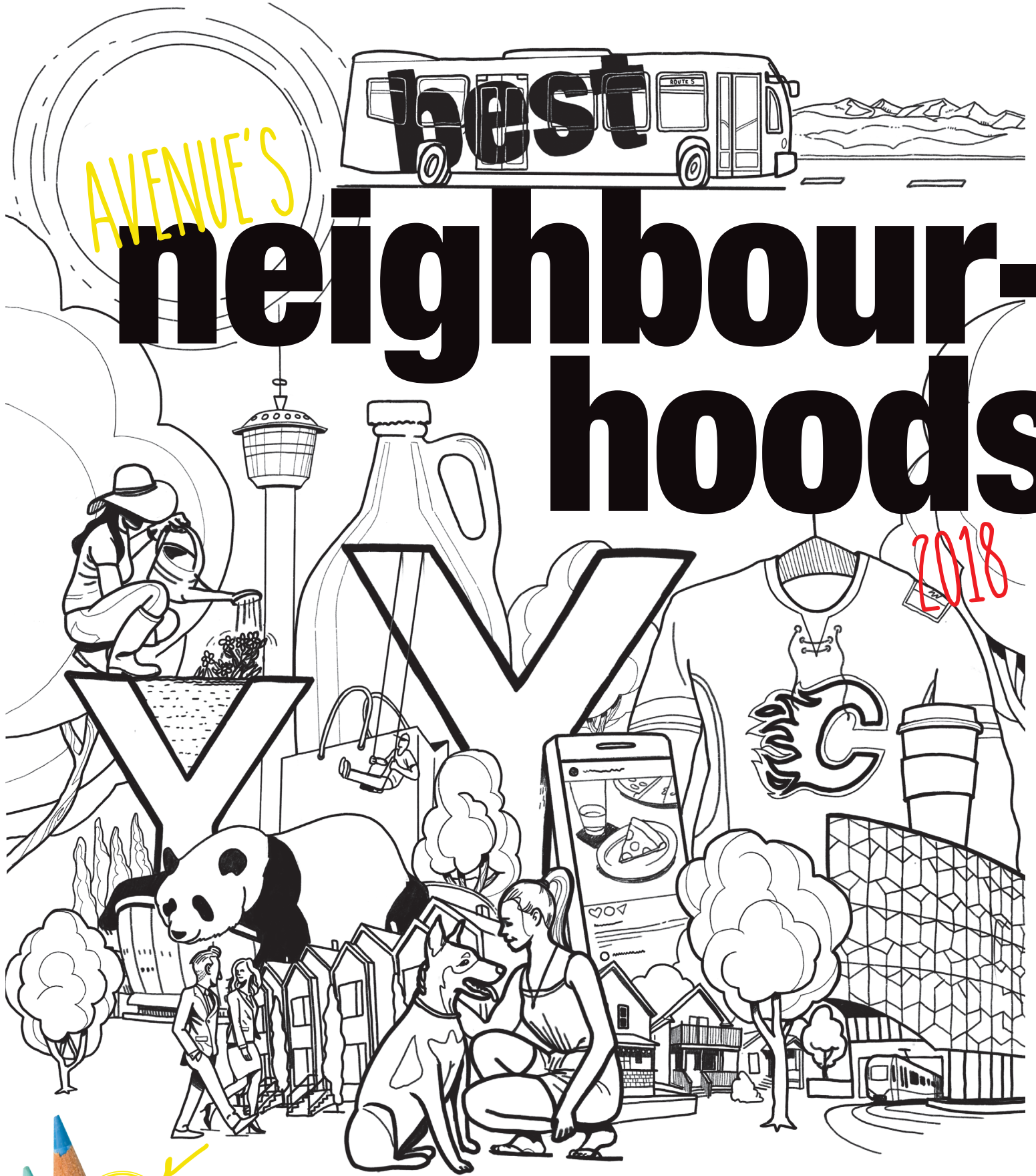


AVENUE'S

# West neighbourhoods hoods



ENTER  
TO WIN

What makes a neighbourhood truly great is the colour you bring to it. Enter the Best Neighbourhoods colouring contest for a chance to win a gift package courtesy of The CORE Shopping Centre valued at \$250. Colour any of the illustrated pages in the section and share your work on Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #AvenueColours and tagging @AvenueMagazine and @COREShopping. Visit [AvenueCalgary.com/colouring](http://AvenueCalgary.com/colouring) for full details.

# What makes a community a great place to live?

According to our ninth annual survey, access to **PARKS + PATHWAYS**; plenty of **RESTAURANTS, CAFES + BARS**; **LOW CRIME**; **WALKABILITY** and **ENGAGED NEIGHBOURS** all factor in.

## Find out how the city's communities ranked and why.

There are more than 180 residential neighbourhoods in the City of Calgary. Most of us know only a few of them well — where we live, where we work, maybe a couple others that we visit frequently. But it's hard to know a lot about all of them, so we've tried to do some of the heavy lifting and provide a bit of insight into a variety of Calgary's best neighbourhoods. From the inner city to the city limits, the very small (Roxboro has fewer than 400 residents) to the very large (almost 26,000 people in Panorama Hills), from neighbourhoods with mountain views to those with river access — there are a variety of great places to live across Calgary.

By necessity, this is a data-driven response to what the average respondent is looking for in a place to live. But ultimately, for most of us, what makes a neighbourhood speak to us is subjective and very personal. What makes a neighbourhood the *perfect* place for *you* to live is often a matter of personal taste — being close to friends, loving a particular street

or the look of a particular home. But what makes a neighbourhood a great place to live for most Calgarians? What characteristics and amenities are the most desirable to most of us? And which neighbourhoods provide the best of the best? That's the question we try to answer each year with our Best Neighbourhoods survey and rankings.

The survey, administered by Leger, asked respondents what was most and least important to them in comparing a variety of aspects of communities including crime rate, parks, recreation facilities, community engagement, walkability and more. Using a max-differential analysis, Leger calculated the weighting of each characteristic and amenity. Then, using data we collected from a variety of third-party sources including the City of Calgary, the Calgary Police Service, Walk Score and others, Leger ranked the city's neighbourhoods.

The results are here — the 2018 Best Neighbourhoods — and you'll find even more information and rankings on our website [AvenueCalgary.com](http://AvenueCalgary.com).



# City of Calgary

Between 2009 and 2014, Evanston's population grew by 118%.

In 2017, Rocky Ridge had only a 0.02% vacancy rate.

At 6.8 square kms each, Tuscany and Varsity are the largest of the Top 50 Neighbourhoods.

Bowness Park was one of the City's most severely impacted areas during the 2013 flood, and remained partially closed until summer 2017. Redevelopments include a new teahouse, wading pool and a new Central Square.

Panorama Hills was Calgary's most populated neighbourhood as of the 2017 census — 25,925 people live here.

At 1,453 people per square kilometre, Montgomery is the least dense community on the Calgary's Top 50 Neighbourhood list.

Although Hillhurst is one of Calgary's oldest neighbourhoods, it wasn't linked by bridge to downtown until the 1950s.

Canadian music duo Tegan and Sara attended Crescent Heights High School in this neighbourhood.

At 0.2 square kms, Chinatown is Calgary's smallest community.

While crime across the city has mostly increased, property crime in Mayland Heights dropped 90% between 2015 and 2017.

Inglewood was named best neighbourhood in the 2014 Great Places in Canada competition run by the Canadian Institute of Planners.

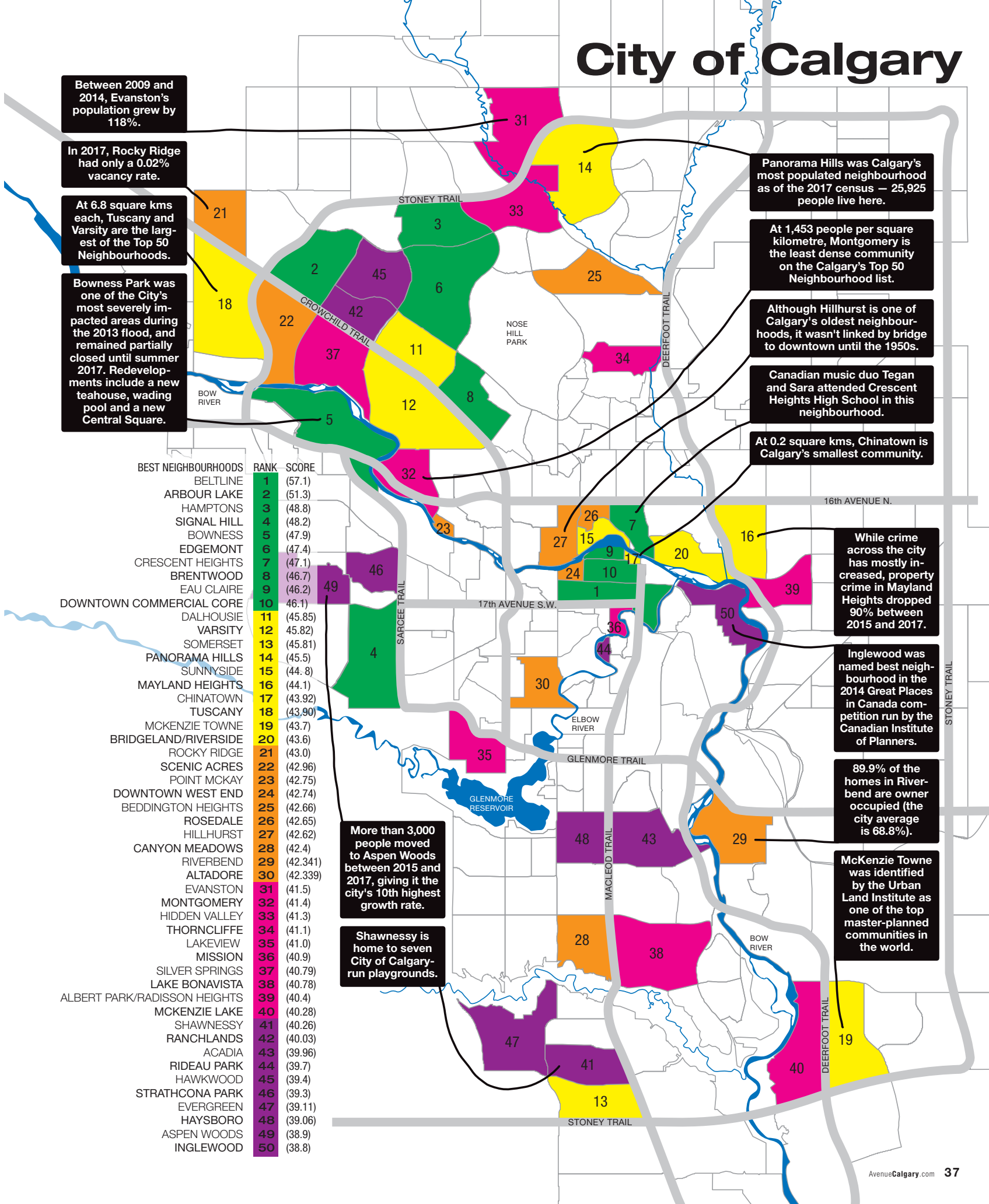
89.9% of the homes in Riverbend are owner occupied (the city average is 68.8%).

McKenzie Towne was identified by the Urban Land Institute as one of the top master-planned communities in the world.

More than 3,000 people moved to Aspen Woods between 2015 and 2017, giving it the city's 10th highest growth rate.

Shawnessy is home to seven City of Calgary-run playgrounds.

BEST NEIGHBOURHOODS	RANK	SCORE
BELTLINE	1	(57.1)
ARBOUR LAKE	2	(51.3)
HAMPTONS	3	(48.8)
SIGNAL HILL	4	(48.2)
BOWNESS	5	(47.9)
EDGEMONT	6	(47.4)
CRESCENT HEIGHTS	7	(47.1)
BRENTWOOD	8	(46.7)
EAU CLAIRE	9	(46.2)
DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL CORE	10	46.1)
DALHOUSIE	11	(45.85)
VARSITY	12	45.82)
SOMERSET	13	(45.81)
PANORAMA HILLS	14	(45.5)
SUNNYSIDE	15	(44.8)
MAYLAND HEIGHTS	16	(44.1)
CHINATOWN	17	(43.92)
TUSCANY	18	(43.90)
MCKENZIE TOWNE	19	(43.7)
BRIDGELAND/RIVERSIDE	20	(43.6)
ROCKY RIDGE	21	(43.0)
SCENIC ACRES	22	(42.96)
POINT MCKAY	23	(42.75)
DOWNTOWN WEST END	24	(42.74)
BEDDINGTON HEIGHTS	25	(42.66)
ROSDALE	26	(42.65)
HILLHURST	27	(42.62)
CANYON MEADOWS	28	(42.4)
RIVERBEND	29	(42.341)
ALTADORE	30	(42.339)
EVANSTON	31	(41.5)
MONTGOMERY	32	(41.4)
HIDDEN VALLEY	33	(41.3)
THORNCLIFFE	34	(41.1)
LAKEVIEW	35	(41.0)
MISSION	36	(40.9)
SILVER SPRINGS	37	(40.79)
LAKE BONAVISTA	38	(40.78)
ALBERT PARK/RADISSON HEIGHTS	39	(40.4)
MCKENZIE LAKE	40	(40.28)
SHAWNESSY	41	(40.26)
RANCLANDS	42	(40.03)
ACADIA	43	(39.96)
RIDEAU PARK	44	(39.7)
HAWKWOOD	45	(39.4)
STRATHCONA PARK	46	(39.3)
EVERGREEN	47	(39.11)
HAYSBORO	48	(39.06)
ASPEN WOODS	49	(38.9)
INGLEWOOD	50	(38.8)





# Beltline

The inner-city community scores high across the board.

Another year, another first-place ranking for the Beltline. The bustling inner-city community on the southern side of downtown has gotten pretty comfortable at the top, having reclaimed this year the first-place finish that it last achieved in 2016 and in 2015 after dipping into second in 2017.

Still, three first-place finishes in four years is what sports fans call a dynasty, and like the legendary dynasty teams, the Beltline's dominance can't be chalked up to one individual thing. Rather, it scores high in most of the characteristics survey respondents said makes an ideal 'hood: lots of great restaurants and cafés (14 of the 25 places on *Avenue's* 2018 list of the city's best restaurants are in the Beltline), two major supermarkets plus a handful of artisan markets and specialty grocers, inviting green spaces and play areas, a high level of walkability and myriad transit options (including public transit access and car-sharing services) that make owning a vehicle a choice, not a necessity. With a population of just over 23,000, the overwhelming majority of which lives in multi-family residences, the Beltline is just slightly less populous than the entire town of Cochrane. And so much human energy translates into vibrancy; even at rest the Beltline seems to hum.

Calgarians who came of age in the 1980s might recall a different kind of energy in the Beltline, when it was home to the infamous Electric Avenue, a stretch of 20-some bars along 11th Avenue S.W. between 4th and 8th streets. If that's what you think of then you might recoil from the idea of the Beltline as a desirable place to live for anyone other than party-hardy twentysomethings. But the current reality is that the Beltline is desirable for respondents

across the demographic spectrum, including seniors and those raising families.

The evolution of the Beltline as a family-friendly neighbourhood in particular reflects a generational shift in the concept of homeownership says two-term city councillor Evan Woolley, whose Ward 8 encompasses most of the community. "[People] are more comfortable with renting an apartment, with renting longer and to have a kid in that rental apartment," he says. Beltline has one of the lowest percentages of owner-occupied homes in the city at just over 25 percent, and while it also has one of the lowest numbers of children per home in the city, there are still more than 1,800 children living in the Beltline.

The trend of families choosing the inner-city lifestyle is something that Tyson Bolduc can speak to. An architect who holds the volunteer position of director of planning and urban development for the Beltline Neighbourhoods Association, Bolduc and his partner Maria Landry, also an architect, both grew up in suburban settings, but took to the inner-city lifestyle during their university years. "I got used to not driving a lot. I got used to being able to walk places. I got used to being able to go out and not worry about an \$80 cab ride to get home, to the point where I started to feel too restrained if I wasn't living in an inner-city environment," Bolduc says.

The couple live in a fourth-floor condominium that they own in a Beltline high-rise. In 2016, they welcomed a son into their family, and for the time being, have no plans to move. "We weren't ready to give up on the lifestyle and the idea that he could share our lifestyle — which is certainly not taking him to nightclubs and stuff — but being able to walk to a coffee shop or restaurant ... using the community as your living room," Bolduc says.

## BELTLINE By the Numbers

RANKING: **1/186**

SCORE:  
(average: 35) **57.08**

2017 POPULATION:  
**23,219**

POPULATION  
GROWTH RATE  
SINCE 2015:

**0.06%**

WALK  
SCORE: **90**

TRANSIT  
SCORE: **76**

RECREATION  
FACILITY POINTS:

**54**

ENGAGEMENT  
RANKING\*:

**9/186**

MEDIAN ASSESSMENT  
VALUE:

**\$306,000**

\*The engagement score takes into consideration the number of community association members, events and projects, the percentage of walking and biking commuters, the percentage of owner-occupied residences, percentage of dog owners, pathway access and library access.



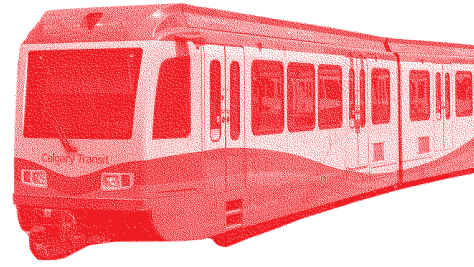
Since becoming a father Bolduc says he's also tuned into the breadth of family life in the neighbourhood. "In our building there's a ton," he says. "Hardly a day goes by that I don't encounter a kid in the elevator."

It appears those kids are increasingly staying put, as well. Beltline resident Lee Stanfield and her husband Mike moved with their two young daughters to the Beltline eight years ago after getting fed up with the commute between their downtown corporate jobs and their southwest suburban home. The move corresponded with their older child starting school and the couple became active in their local CBE Connaught School, serving on the parent council and parents fundraising group for the school and extolling the school's multiculturalism. "We have, at any given time at the school, more than 50 distinct birth countries represented, so it's not just one level of new to Canada, it's a little bit of everything, which is really fantastic," Lee Stanfield says.

Their younger daughter will start Grade 5 at Connaught this fall and Stanfield says that the evolution of the Beltline

as a more family-focused neighbourhood is reflected in the school's enrolment. "When my older daughter started there, I think there were 140 kids and we're up to 340 or 350 now. That's huge growth," she says. In addition to the numbers, Stanfield has seen the school become less transitory, with her younger daughter having several friends that have all been in the school together since kindergarten.

Unlike the majority of Beltline residents, the Stanfields own one of the rare standalone homes in the community — a century-old house on the neighbourhood's west side. Back when they revealed their move plans, Lee Stanfield says she often got the reaction that crime would be an ongoing concern, but that hasn't been her personal experience. "I think it's because there is that sense of community," she says. "You know everybody who's got dogs and they wave as they walk by and people keep an eye out for each other. It actually does have that sense of a community and of being a neighbourhood, rather than people just passing through." — *Shelley Arnusch*



## High Transit Score

(weighting of importance 6.5)

**Like Walk Score, Transit Score is a patented measure of how well a location is served by public transit on a scale from 0 to 100. With 155 bus routes and 118.1 kilometres of CTrain track, Calgary is fairly accessible in terms of transit.**

These neighbourhoods have the highest transit score due to their proximity to transit routes.

### RANK NEIGHBOURHOOD SCORE

1	Downtown Commercial Core	84
2	Downtown West End	83
3	Chinatown	82
4	Downtown East Village, Eau Claire (tie)	81
5	Beltline	76
6	Sunnyside	72
7	Hillhurst	71
8	Crescent Heights	66
9	Sunalta	65
10	Bridgeland/Riverside, Mission (tie)	63

## Number of Restaurants, Cafés and Bars

(weighting of importance 12.6)

Perhaps it's unsurprising that access to restaurants, cafés and bars is important to Avenue readers, given the amount of dining coverage we do. Using the City of Calgary's business license data, we scored every residential neighbourhood on restaurant access inside its borders.



These are the neighbourhoods in Calgary with the most restaurants, cafés and bars.

RANK	NEIGHBOURHOOD	SCORE
1	Downtown Commercial Core	352
2	Beltline	288
3	Arbour Lake	56
4	Hillhurst	53
5	McKenzie Towne	45
6	Chinatown, Forest Lawn (tie)	43
7	Signal Hill	42
8	Shawnessy	41
9	Mission	39
10	Crescent Heights	38

## High Walk Score

(weighting of importance 12.4)

Survey respondents ranked Walk Score as the fourth-most-important characteristic of a great place to live. Walk Score measures the walkability of a neighbourhood based on the percentage of daily errands that can be accomplished on foot in the area. Walk Score is a private company based in Seattle, Washington, and it provides a complete list of both Walk Scores and Transit Scores for Calgary neighbourhoods on its website. A score of 90 to 100 means daily errands don't require a car and a score between 70 and 89 means most errands can be done on foot. Calgary is the 10th most walkable large city in Canada according to [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com).

These are the most walkable neighbourhoods in Calgary.

RANK	NEIGHBOURHOOD	SCORE
1	Chinatown	95
2	Downtown Commercial Core	93
3	Cliff Bungalow	92
4	Eau Claire	91
5	Downtown West End, Beltline (tie)	90
6	Downtown East Village, Lower Mount Royal (tie)	86
7	Hillhurst, Sunnyside (tie)	85
8	Mission	84
9	Crescent Heights	79
10	Manchester	78

Calgary is the 10th most walkable large city in Canada according to [walkscore.com](http://walkscore.com).



# Great Places to Raise People

Communities with great amenities for families have a lot to offer everyone, and vice versa.

What makes a neighbourhood ideal for families looks an awful lot like what makes a neighbourhood great for seniors, singles, indeed, for everyone. At least that's what the results of the last few years of *Avenue's* survey seem to indicate. For the past several years, the neighbourhoods ranked as best overall have been strikingly similar to those ranked as best for families.

This year, the Beltline was the number-one ranked neighbourhood across all demographic groups that completed our survey. While there are some characteristics that are much more important for people with kids at home — such as schools and playgrounds — even for families those are not as important as characteristics that are important to everybody — such as access to parks and pathways and low crime. Families want what everyone else wants and on the other side of that equation, everyone wants what families want — including walkability and access to amenities like recreational facilities, restaurants and grocery stores.

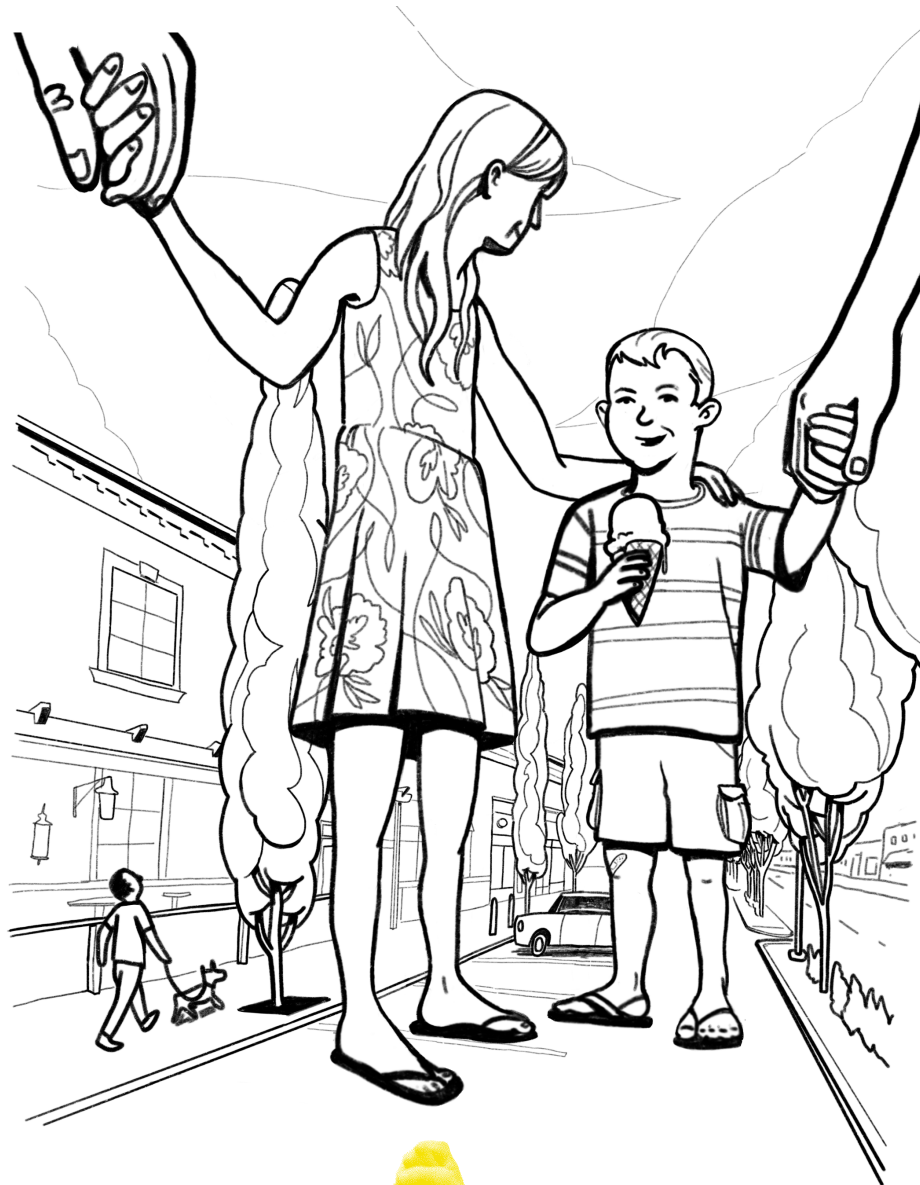
According to Beverly A. Sandalack, associate dean of the faculty of environmental design at the University of Calgary, this trend may indicate that parents want neighbourhoods they can age in. “In the past, there might have been the tendency for families to locate in the outer suburbs because it was more affordable and there was this perception that it was a family-friendly place,” she says. “But over time, there's been a shift in thinking. People want to move into a neighbourhood where it's good for kids — they've got parks and schools and it's affordable — but there is more of a tendency, perhaps, where they want to stay in a neighbourhood over time so as the family ages and their interests change, they've [still] got all their needs met.”

These needs are being met not only by a shift of more families living in the inner-city, but also to suburban developments providing more amenities and being built as complete communities for every demographic.

It's more than just a matter of convenience. Sandalack says walkability, for example, has become an important health issue. “The last few decades in research have shown us that if kids start walking when they're young and develop that lifestyle, it's going to serve them well for the rest of their lives,” she says.

As Calgarians start expecting different amenities in their neighbourhoods, many developers are creating communities with a “Main Street” philosophy, which means designing shops and services around a walkable high street such as in Garrison Woods, McKenzie Towne, or the new developments of Harmony and Livingston.

“Neighbourhoods are starting to include more of a mix of uses so it's not just schools and parks, but you've got a lot of different amenities,” Sandalack says. “You can walk to the grocery store or walk to the gym or to all the other things people need in their lives.” — T.S.



## Where the Families Are (and Aren't)

According to the 2016 city census.

**Panorama Hills** has the highest number of kids 19 and under, with 7,934; **Taradale** has the highest number of kids per household, with 1.39, and per square km with 2,257.

**Eagle Ridge** has the lowest number of children 19 and under, with just 55 in the 2016 city census; **Eau Claire** has the lowest number of kids per household, with 0.02; **Greenwood/Greenbriar** has the least number of children per square km, with 117.50.

# # Arbour Lake

Resort-like living in the city's northwest.

Environmental psychologists don't know exactly why proximity to water, including urban water features, is good for our physical and mental health — they just know it is. So it should surprise no one that one of the city's lake communities ranked as the second-most-desirable neighbourhood in Calgary.

Arbour Lake, whose namesake lake is both the geographic and recreational hub of the community, offers residents swimming, boating and fishing in the summer, and ice skating, curling and ice fishing in the winter. On sunny days the beach is a hive of family fun, with children making sandcastles while teens play beach volleyball, parents prepare picnics and seniors stroll the lakefront pathway.

Arbour Lake's "blue space" gets much of the attention, but the community also has enviable access to green space. A bike-and walking-trail network winds through the rolling

hills and ravines, affording sweeping views of the Rockies to the west.

But it's not all play at this northwest community. People have to get to work, too, and Arbour Lake's proximity to major routes such as Crowchild Trail, Stoney Trail and John Laurie Boulevard as well as its Transit Score, thanks to the nearby Crowfoot CTrain station, are significant factors in its high ranking. Having a grocery store or specialty market in the neighbourhood is another highly prized attribute to survey respondents and Arbour Lake has them in abundance, from a Safeway and a Co-op to Amaranth Whole Foods Market.

While much of what recommends Arbour Lake is outdoor-focused, there are also abundant opportunities for indoor fun, including a movie theatre, the Melcor YMCA at Crowfoot, Schanks Sports Grill and The Spa Ritual if you just need to unwind. — *Jennifer Hamilton*

## What the Neighbours Say

"My wife Deanna and I have lived in Arbour Lake for 18 years. The main draw was definitely the lake. We raised four children here and now we have two grandchildren. We've thought about downsizing since the kids are gone but we're still the hub of the family, the place where everyone gathers to go fishing, paddleboarding and eat hot dogs. We go to just about every event the community hosts — the fishing and ice fishing derbies, movie night at the park and the Canada Day fireworks display. It's always packed but it never feels crowded, and it's great to see so many young families moving in. I think this is just a beautiful community because it has everything you need for a growing family." —BERNIE BOUMA, ARBOUR LAKE RESIDENT



## ARBOUR LAKE By the Numbers

RANKING: **2/186**

SCORE: **51.33**  
(average: 35)

2017 POPULATION:  
**10,713**

POPULATION  
GROWTH RATE  
SINCE 2015:

**-0.02%**

WALK  
SCORE: **46**

TRANSIT  
SCORE: **43**

RECREATION  
FACILITY POINTS:

**87**

ENGAGEMENT  
RANKING:

**7/186**

MEDIAN ASSESSMENT  
VALUE:

**\$449,000**







# Going to the

You don't need to have a dog to reap the rewards of dog ownership.

Dog ownership in Canada has been on the rise. According to the Canadian Animal Health Institute, 41 per cent of Canadian households include at least one dog and that number has grown consistently over the last 10 years — and for good reason. A study published in *BMC Public Health* journal found that dog owners walked an average of 22 minutes and 2,760 steps more per day than those without dogs. And a study in *Scientific Reports* found dog owners live longer and healthier lives.

But even if you don't own one, you can benefit from having dogs in your neighbourhood. Dog owners need parks and walkable pathways. Anyone who owns a dog knows how having your pooch with you makes it easy to start conversations with strangers. These factors mean dogs in your neighbourhood can help you meet people and create a sense of community. This is why *Avenue* included the percentage of dog owners in a community in the calculations of neighbourhood engagement scores.

"Furry friends bring so many positive social impacts to our neighbourhoods," says Calgary Ward 7 councillor

Druh Farrell. "Dogs bring neighbours together who otherwise might not have a chance to meet. They help combat loneliness and keep us fit. As we find ourselves in an age of increasing isolation, our pups can bring us companionship and a happier state of mind."

Melanie Rock, an associate professor at the University of Calgary, researches how pets integrate into our society and lives. She says while it's unclear whether people choose to live in certain neighbourhoods because of their dogs, or choose to have a dog because of where they live, a relationship exists between neighbourhood characteristics and dog ownership. "That means being able to walk in neighbourhoods, parks, and so on," Rock says.

This relationship is evident in Calgary. Last year, McKenzie Towne, Cranston and Tuscany were the three neighbourhoods with the highest number of licensed dogs. Cranston and Tuscany are also amongst the communities with the best access to pathways. All three communities have higher-than-average access to greenspace and all ranked in the top third of Calgary neighbourhoods in our analysis.

—Tina Shaygan

## Pet City

**Greenwood/Greenbriar** has the highest number of dogs per dwelling in Calgary: 0.5585.

**Tuscany** is home to 2,512 dogs and 914 cats.

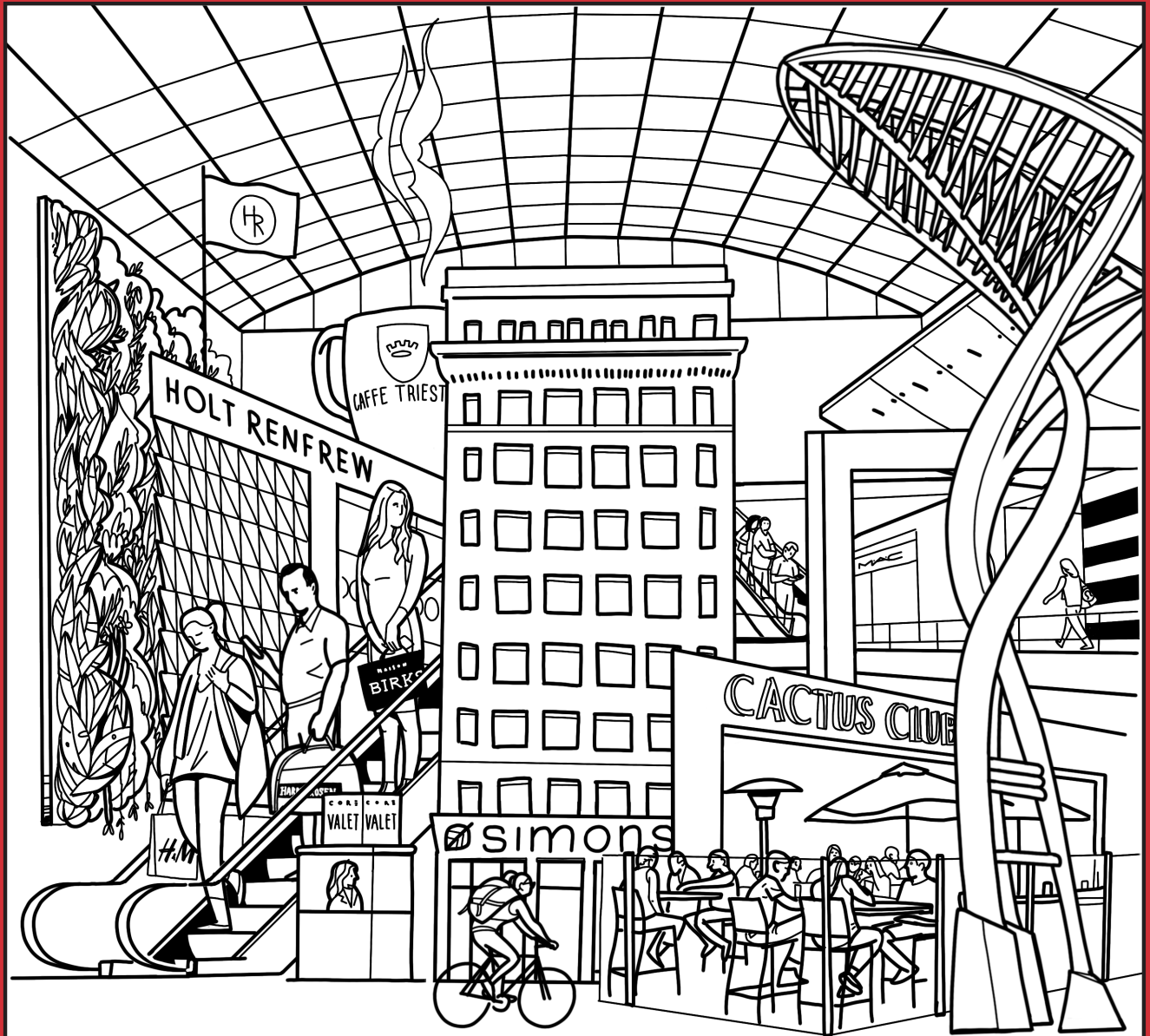
**Huntington Hills, Beddington Heights and Silver Springs** each have five off-leash parks.

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PUBLIC  
OFF-LEASH  
AREAS**

— a total of more than 1,250 hectares that make up 17 per cent of the City's total Parks space.





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downtown*

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## Access to Parks and Pathways

(weighting of importance 13.4)

Access to parks and pathways ranked as the most important characteristic of a great place to live according to our survey respondents, with a weighting Leger calculated at 13.4.

We then scored neighbourhoods on proximity to regional (part of City-wide network), local (secondary route within communities) and trails (unpaved pathways recognized by the City). The great news is that 40 neighbourhoods had the highest level of access with a score of 18.

For parks access we considered the size of parks, the number of smaller green spaces that the City does not provide size data on and the parks adjacent to communities.

These neighbourhoods had the highest scores for parks access.

RANK	NEIGHBOURHOOD	SCORE
1	Edgemont.....	50
2	Huntington Hills.....	48
3	Beddington Heights.....	47
4	Varsity.....	45
5	Cambrian Heights, Riverbend (tie).....	44
6	Sundance.....	42
7	Lake Bonavista.....	41
8	Thorncliffe, Collingwood, Scenic Acres, Lakeview, Woodbine (tie).....	40
9	Canyon Meadows.....	39
10	McKenzie Lake.....	38



## Low Crime

(weighting of importance 12.5)

Once again, low crime rate was top of mind for our survey respondents. These neighbourhoods ranked the lowest in terms of personal and property crimes per capita (per 1,000 population) in 2017.

RANK	NEIGHBOURHOOD	SCORE
<i>Lowest Property Crimes per Capita</i>		
1	Hamptons.....	16.12
2	Mayland Heights.....	17.91
3	Cougar Ridge.....	22.34
4	Strathcona Park.....	23.00
5	Panorama Hills.....	23.88
6	Evergreen.....	24.11
7	Rocky Ridge.....	24.70
8	Hawkwood.....	24.92
9	Citadel.....	24.97
10	Kincora.....	25.30

<i>Lowest Person Crimes per Capita</i>		
1	Bel-Aire.....	0
2	Redstone.....	0.29
3	Rocky Ridge.....	1.55
4	Rideau Park.....	1.68
5	Kincora.....	1.73
6	Lakeview.....	1.81
7	Shawnee Slopes, Hamptons (tie).....	1.85
8	Nolan Hill.....	1.88
9	Evergreen.....	1.91
10	Citadel.....	1.94

\*Some of Calgary's newest neighbourhoods were included in crime calculations available from the Calgary Police Service although completed data sets on all amenities were not available.

# MEET A NEIGHBOUR

## Paul Clark EDGEMONT

Paul Clarke has lived in Edgemont for 24 years.



“The thing we like about this community is the [mature] green spaces.

Outside the window of my home office is a pine tree that was less than six-feet tall when we moved in, and must be 40-to-50-feet tall now.”

Edgemont has 7,805 trees  
or 1,176 trees per square km.



## Carole Carpenter BOWNESS

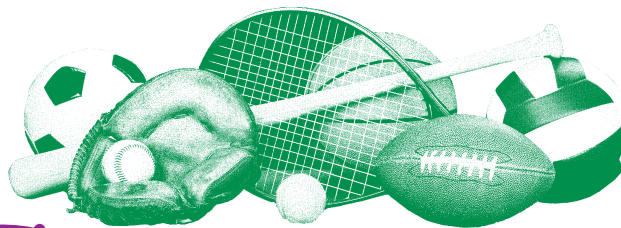
Carole Carpenter grew up in Bowness and moved back to the neighbourhood in 1992. She's now the president of the Bowness Historical Society. “[Bowness] has a very long, unique history ... There has been a lot of development over the years, but there's still a lot of history here. We have six historic homes left in Bowness, from 1912/1913. We have a historic-home tour every year.”



## Rob Van Gastel MCKENZIE TOWNE

Rob Van Gastel has lived in McKenzie Towne for 19 years. “I love the fact that it's just like a little town. That's what drew me and my family here in 1999. My kids actually used to refer to McKenzie Towne as ‘little town’ ... The whole community is conducive to walking around; there are front porches. There's encouragement to get out and get to know your neighbours.”





# MEET A NEIGHBOUR

## Deb Lee BRIDGELAND/ RIVERSIDE

Debra Lee has lived in Bridgeland/Riverside for 21 years and is involved with the community association.



“We really want to continue our culture of friendliness. And for people to know that when they move here, it's very different from suburbia. Please don't drive into your garage, pull down your blinds and never come out. This is a walkable community, we know our neighbours, and you can get involved.”

**Bridgeland/Riverside has an engagement score of 79.29.**

## Gord Vogt SIGNAL HILL

Gord Vogt has lived in Signal Hill for 28 years.



“We have lots of elevation. It's great exercise up and down the hills. We have lots of opportunities to view the city from Signal Hill. On the east side, you have full views of the city. You can see planes landing from here.”



## Mike Jankovic CRESCENT HEIGHTS

Mike Jankovic grew up in Crescent Heights and moved back six years ago to raise his family. He fondly recalls growing up in the inner city.

“You could go downtown and meet your parents when you got a little older. When I was 10 or 12, I would go downtown on my bike and meet my dad at his work for lunch.”

## Access to Recreational Facilities

(weighting of importance 5.2)

In our scoring of access to recreational facilities, we included public leisure centres, art centres, aquatic and fitness centres, outdoor pools and rinks, athletic parks, multi-sport facilities, tennis courts and lakes. We evaluated neighbourhoods based on the facilities inside their borders and in adjacent neighbourhoods. (Private lakes were considered recreational facilities for the home community but not for adjacent neighbourhoods.)

These neighbourhoods ranked the highest for access to recreational facilities.

RANK	NEIGHBOURHOOD	SCORE
1	Montgomery	132
2	Varsity	126
3	University of Calgary	124
4	University Heights	119
5	Mayland Heights	106
6	Acadia	104
7	Hillhurst, Pineridge (tie)	98
8	Brentwood, Silver Springs (tie)	97
9	Dover	94
10	Palliser	93

## James Hughes EAU CLAIRE

James Hughes has lived in Eau Claire for 10 years.



“What I most enjoy is it's true urban living, but in the setting of the riverbank. The urban living is part of being downtown. I can walk to all the entertainment options, like Arts Commons, and the shopping. I can also go outside and enjoy Prince's Island and the River-walk system.”

**Eau Claire has a Walk Score of 91.**

## Community Engagement

(weighting of importance 8.6)

Gauging the levels of community engagement across more than 180 neighbourhoods in a systematic way is one of the most difficult, and contentious, aspects of our Best Neighbourhoods research and reporting.



This year we gave our whole engagement score system an overhaul, adding in a variety of new information focused on the idea that a neighbourhood where neighbours run into each other more often, and where they have more opportunity to see each other, is more engaged. We considered the percentage of households with a dog because the more dog owners in a neighbourhood the more people are out walking their dogs around, meeting their neighbours. We also added access to pathways and the percentage of bike and walking commuters as well as the number of playgrounds and libraries, because having more places for neighbours to bump into one another increases the chances that they do. We also included some more typical and formal measures of engagement: community association membership levels, the activities of the community association and the percentage of owner-occupied dwellings. Based on these factors, these are the neighbourhoods that came out as having the highest community engagement scores. 📍

## RANK NEIGHBOURHOOD SCORE

1	Eau Claire	110.74
2	Bowness	106.71
3	West Springs	97.81
4	Wildwood	97.67
5	Rosedale	97.62
6	Altadore	96.75
7	Arbour Lake	95.95
8	Elbow Park	94.86
9	Beltline	93.73
10	Sunnyside	92.49