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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE NEED FOR
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST JASPER PLACE

Prepared for
The Boys and Girls Club of Edmonton

by
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Submitted by
Edmonton Social Planning Council

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Sandy Prokopiw,
April 6, 1984

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The purpose of the following needs assessment is to pull together relevant data in providing a clear picture of a need for a Boys and Girls Club facility in the West Jasper Place area.

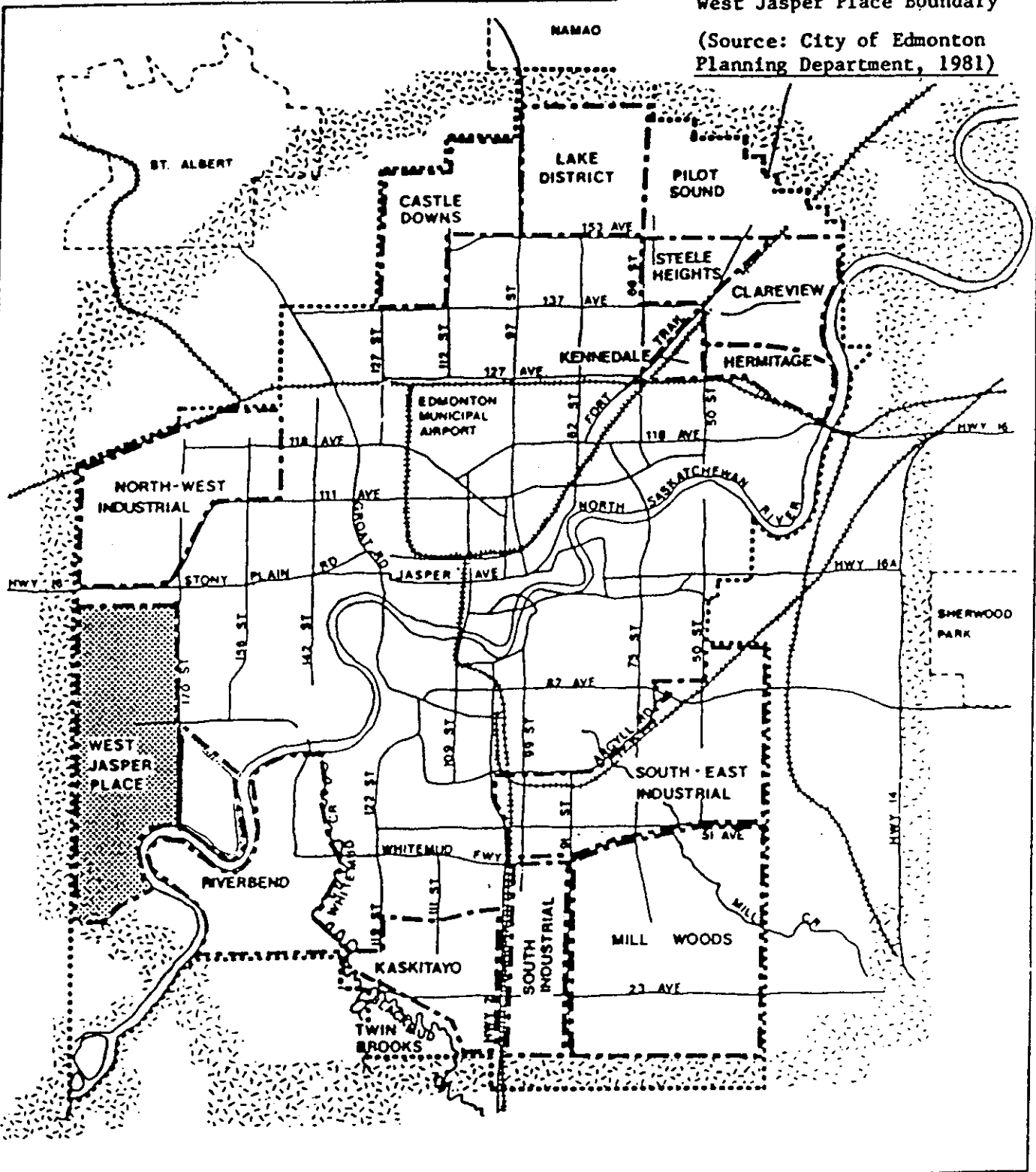
Data was collected in the areas of previous studies on the social/recreational needs of youth, existing programs and indicator and census material. In addition, individuals whom it was felt would have valuable input concerning the needs of youth in the West Jasper Place area were interviewed.

Indicators examined for an overview of demographic and social characteristics included population and income distribution, employment status, numbers of single parent families, land use, social allowance and juvenile probation statistics. It was felt that these indicators were important reflections of a lack of resources to provide for the social, recreational, and supportive needs of children aged 5-19.

Although each section is presented separately with accompanying numerical data and analysis, it is important to review the material keeping in mind that all factors are related, and to a large extent dependent upon each other. Taken together, they point to a large youth population whose social, recreational and supportive needs are not being adequately met due to a lack of services. These needs, if not met, could compound an already serious situation in terms of the youth population in West Jasper Place neighbourhoods.


West Jasper Place Boundary

(Source: City of Edmonton Planning Department, 1981)



VICINITY



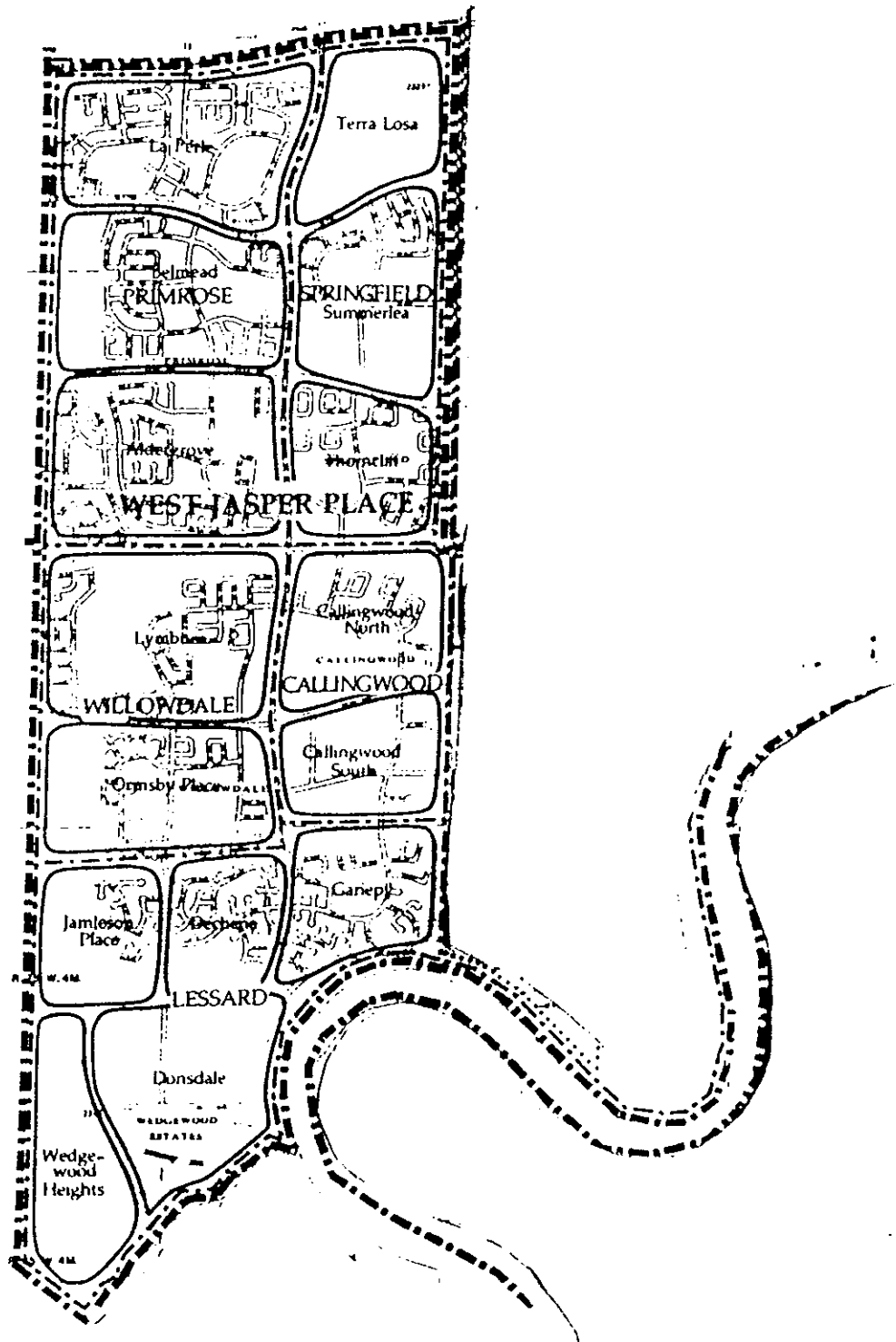
 limit of West Jasper Place *

LAND USE PLANNING BRANCH
PLANNING

FILE: 81-X-119-S
DATE: 1981 11 26

* Shaded area denotes neighborhoods under consideration for the purposes of this study.

WEST JASPER PLACE NEIGHBORHOODS



Existing Studies

a) Leefield Community Study

With respect to gaining a better understanding of social and recreational needs of youth aged 5 - 19, a study done by Grant MacEwan Community College Applied Research Centre was examined. Noteworthy findings concerned varying interests between age groups, and reasons for seeking recreation.

Findings of the study indicated that interest in various activities vary with age. For example, interest in sharing hobbies, viewing films, listening to music, board and table games, tend to increase with age, while interest in activities such as viewing children's theatre, indoor and outdoor active games tend to decrease with age.

Findings of the study also indicated that a high percentage of youth (75% for boys and 68% for girls) sought recreation to be with friends. This would suggest that activities are often a means to an end; fulfillment of a social need which is inherent in the philosophy of the Boys and Girls Club.

Through use of the small group concept, the Boys and Girls Club allows for flexibility of activities according to group consensus. Restrictions in terms of the above-mentioned activities are therefore not imposed in terms of a specific activity during an allotted time. Because the Leefield study indicates that there is a large difference in activities preferred between age groups, this flexibility would seem to be essential.

b) Millwoods Feasibility Study

Prior to expansion into the Millwoods area, the Boys and Girls Club conducted a feasibility study in 1979, outlining problems such as limited recreational programs, social service resources, and a large youth population. Similarities in problem types were noted between the Millwoods area of 1979 and West Jasper Place of 1981-1984 which were examined further to document a need for expansion into the West Jasper Place area.

Demographic and Social Indicators

a) Population Between the Ages of 0-19 (Table 1)

With the exception of Callingwood South, all West Jasper Place neighbourhoods are above the city average for percentage of population between the ages of 0-19; where the city average is 26.7%, that of West Jasper Place is 33%. Neighbourhoods above the West Jasper Place average include Thorncliff, Belmead, Aldergrove and Ormsby Place, at 37%, 37%, 36%, and 36% respectively.

Areas such as Thorncliff, Aldergrove and Belmead have a large percentage of children in the 10-14 group (9.8%, 9.5% and 9.3% respectively), a group which could benefit from a facility such as the Boys and Girls Club now.

Areas such as Lymburn, Ormsby Place, Thorncliff and Donsdale have a large percentage of children in the 0-4 group (12.6%, 11.9%, 9.3% and 9.8% respectively). Projecting five to ten years into the future it appears that the need for the facility will continue to exist and grow, as in ten years there will be over 4000 children in the 5-19 age group in these four areas alone.

Table 1Population Between the Ages of 0-19

	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 9</u>	<u>10 - 14</u>	<u>15 - 19</u>	<u>Total</u>
Edmonton	37,743 (6.7%)	35,320 (6.4%)	35,019 (6.2%)	41,229 (7.4%)	149,811 (26.7%)
<u>Neighbourhood</u>					
Aldergrove	338 (8%)	422 (10%)	397 (9.5%)	369 (8.8%)	1,526 (36%)
Belmead	362 (8.9%)	440 (10.8%)	396 (9.8%)	321 (7.9%)	1,519 (37%)
Callingwood N.	199 (8.4%)	164 (6.9%)	140 (5.9%)	146 (6.2%)	649 (27%)
Callingwood S.	373 (8.8%)	223 (5.2%)	149 (3.5%)	239 (5.6%)	984 (23%)
Dechene	6 (8.1%)	5 (6.8%)	4 (5.4%)	6 (8.1%)	21 (28.4%)
Donsdale	12 (9.8%)	8 (6.6%)	8 (6.6%)	7 (5.7%)	35 (29%)
Gariepy	157 (8.7%)	153 (8.5%)	133 (7.4%)	118 (6.5%)	561 (31%)
Jamieson Place	6 (8.1%)	5 (6.8%)	4 (5.4%)	6 (8.1%)	21 (28%)
LaPerle	455 (13.5%)	313 (9.2%)	185 (5.5%)	157 (4.7%)	1,110 (33%)
Lymburn	398 (12.6%)	312 (9.4%)	217 (6.9%)	125 (3.9%)	1,052 (33%)
Ormsby Place	467 (11.9%)	431 (11.0%)	282 (7.2%)	215 (5.5%)	1,396 (36%)
Thorncliff	359 (9.3%)	382 (9.9%)	380 (9.8%)	314 (8.1%)	1,435 (37%)
Wedgewood Heights	12 (9.8%)	8 (6.6%)	8 (6.6%)	7 (5.7%)	35 (28.7%)
Summerlea	115 (10.6%)	87 (8.0%)	67 (6.2%)	58 (5.3%)	327 (30%)
Terra Losa	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3,591 (9.1%)	3,469 (8.8%)	2,992 (7.6%)	2,797 (7.1%)	10,636 (33%)

Source: Civic Census 1983.

b) Families in Private Households (Table 2)

All West Jasper Place neighbourhoods are above the city average for single parent families (12.2%). Thorncliff in particular stands out being almost double the city average. Assuming that heads of single parent families often lack additional resources to provide for the recreational needs of their children, they would require the kind of service that the Boys and Girls Club can provide, and a need exists in the area.

Table 2

Families in Private Households

	<u>Husband/Wife</u>	<u>Single Parent</u>
Edmonton	87.1	12.9%
<u>Neighbourhood(s)</u>		
LaPerle, Terra Losa, Belmead, Summerlea	86.1	13.9
Thorncliff	77.9	22.1
Lymburn, Callingwood N.	85.9%	14.1%
Aldergrove	85.5%	14.5%
Gariepy, Wedgewood Heights, Donsdale, Ormsby Place, Callingwood S., Jamieson Place, Dechene	85.2%	14.8%

Source: Federal Census, 1981.

c) Number of Single Parents on Social Allowance (Table 3)

The number of single parents on social allowance in West Jasper Place is above the city average at 59% as opposed to 44.8%. A rise in the number of single parents in the area on social allowance has occurred between March of 1982 and September of 1983. In March of 1982 the number of single parents on social allowance had increased by 14.3% over the previous six month period. In September of 1983 this increase was 20.1% over the previous period.

Such families would likely lack resources to provide fully for the social/recreational needs of their children, and would therefore benefit from a Boys and Girls Club facility.

Table 3

Number of Single Parents on Social Allowance

Edmonton - 44.8% of those on social allowance are single parents

West Jasper Place - 59.0%

Increase in Single Parents on Social Allowance by year (6 mo. intervals) in West Jasper Place

<u>82/03</u>	<u>82/09</u>	<u>83/03</u>	<u>83/09</u>
14.3%	16.5%	19.0%	20.1%

d) Family Income (Table 4)

Although the combined neighbourhoods of LaPerle, Terra Losa, Belmead and Summerlea have 52.2% of families with incomes under \$30,000 as opposed to 51.5% for the City of Edmonton, Thorncliff stands out with 63% under \$30,000. The average family income for Thorncliff at \$25,273 is also measurably lower than the city average at \$31,998. This indicator is consistent with the fact that Thorncliff also has a high number of single parents. In addition, it must be noted that a family requires two wage earners in most cases to reach the average income for Edmonton. These estimates are also conservative ones, due to use of 1981 statistics which reflect 1980 income.

Table 4

Family Income

Percentage of Population with Family Income Under \$30,000.00

		<u>Average Income</u>
Edmonton	51.5%	31,998
LaPerle, Terra Losa, Belmead & Summerlea	52.2%	31,265
Thorncliff	63.0%	25,273
Lymburn, Callingwood N.	46.4%	31,070
Aldergrove	46.3%	32,923
Gariepy, Wedgewood Heights, Donsdale, Ormsby Pl., Dechene	47.8%	33,789

Source: Federal Census, 1981.

e) Employment Status (Table 5)

While all West Jasper Place neighbourhoods with the exception of Thorncliff have unemployment rates below that of Edmonton at 13.0%, the number of females employed full-time is higher than that of the city in every neighbourhood.

Thorncliff has the highest rate of unemployment in West Jasper Place (13.1%) and the highest number of females working part-time (11.6%). This may be explained by its close proximity to West Edmonton Mall, and is consistent with the high number of single parents and low average income for the neighbourhood.

Table 5

<u>Employment Status</u>	<u>Number Unemployed</u>	<u>Females Employed Full-Time</u>	<u>Females Employed Part-Time</u>
Edmonton	37,742 (13.0%)	88,605 (30.4%)	20,891 (8.2%)
<u>Neighbourhood</u>			
Aldergrove	200 (9.4%)	635 (33.1%)	197 (10.3%)
Belmead	213 (10.5%)	668 (36.6%)	149 (8.2%)
Callingwood N.	117 (8.3%)	490 (3.8%)	106 (8.2%)
Callingwood S.	350 (12.7%)	1,109 (42.5%)	152 (6.3%)
Dechene	1 (2.2%)	17 (38.6%)	1 (2.3%)
Donsdale	2 (2.9%)	26 (38.8%)	2 (3%)
Gariepy	50 (5.4%)	287 (32.8%)	68 (7.8%)
Jamieson Place	1 (2.2%)	17 (38.6%)	1 (2%)
La Perle	236 (12.5%)	582 (35.3%)	123 (7.5%)
Lymburn	124 (7.4%)	569 (36.5%)	110 (7.3%)
Ormsby Place	255 (12.3%)	673 (36.9%)	110 (6%)
Thorncliff	251 (13.1%)	601 (36.2%)	193 (11.6%)
Summerlea	33 (5%)	242 (38.7%)	33 (5.3%)
Wedgewood Heights	2 (2.9%)	26 (38.8%)	2 (3%)
West Jasper Place Total	1,989 (9.4%)	6,782 (35.6%)	1,587 (8.3%)

Source: Civic Census, 1983.

f) Length of Residence (Table 6)

All neighbourhoods in West Jasper Place, with the exception of Dechene, Donsdale, and Jamieson Place have a large percentage of residents who have been in the area 1-2 years. In many cases, this is accounted for by the fact that West Jasper Place is a comparatively new area, and residents have moved to these locations from elsewhere in Edmonton. Services required by families have not had time to develop through neighbourhood co-operation, and location of the area makes access to services located in other areas of the city difficult.

Table 6

Length of Residence

	<u>3 or more years</u>	<u>1 - 2 years</u>	<u>less than 1 yr. plus elsewhere in Edmonton</u>	<u>Elsewhere</u>	<u>Total</u>
Edmonton	319,970 (57.2%)	112,809 (20.5%)	100,082 (17.9%)	27,318 (4.9%)	560,000
<u>Neighbourhood</u>					
Aldergrove	2,263 (54.1%)	995 (23.7%)	647 (15.5%)	279 (6.7%)	4,186
Belmead	2,284 (56.3%)	935 (23.0%)	629 (15.5%)	209 (5.2%)	4,057
Callingwood N.	1,012 (42.8%)	560 (23.7%)	602 (25.5%)	188 (8.0%)	2,362
Callingwood S.	450 (10.6%)	889 (21.0%)	2,320 (54.9%)	567 (13.4%)	4,226
Duchene	26 (31.7%)	10 (12.2%)	41 (50.0%)	5 (6.1%)	82
Donsdale	39 (31.7%)	16 (13.0%)	60 (48.8%)	9 (7.3%)	123
Gariepy	620 (35.0%)	564 (31.9%)	442 (25.0%)	144 (8.1%)	1,770
Jamieson Place	26 (31.3%)	10 (12.0%)	41 (49.4%)	6 (7.2%)	83
La Perle	475 (14.1%)	1,507 (44.8%)	1,148 (34.1%)	237 (7.0%)	3,367
Lymburn	1,192 (87.7%)	983 (31.0%)	877 (27.7%)	113 (3.6%)	3,165
Ormsby Place	1,503 (38.4%)	1,186 (30.3%)	1,012 (25.8%)	218 (5.6%)	3,919
Thornclyff	2,224 (57.6%)	863 (22.4%)	590 (12.3%)	184 (4.8%)	3,861
Summer Lea	147 (13.5%)	541 (49.8%)	288 (26.5%)	110 (10.1%)	1,086
Wedgewood Heights	39 (30.7%)	16 (13.0%)	60 (49.0%)	9 (7.3%)	123
Terra Rosa	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17,326 (44.1%)	10,217 (26.0%)	9,240 (23.5%)	2,544 (6.5%)	39,324

Source: Civic census, 1983

g) Residency Type (Table 7)

In the neighbourhoods of Callingwood South, Callingwood North, Ormsby Place and Thorncliff, the percentage of rented accommodation (79.0%, 54.0%, 50.2% and 47.8% respectively) is greater than that of the city at 46.8%. Rented accommodation is seen as an indication of lower income and a tendency to move periodically. It is suggested that recreational programs often require specific time commitments which cannot be met when families move often. The flexibility of the Boys and Girls Club programs allows for participants to join at any time during the year. (With the exception of specific summer programs.)

RESIDENCY TYPE: OWNED, RENTED

	<u>Owned, Vacant Under Const.</u>	<u>Rented</u>	<u>Total</u>
Edmonton	123,113 (53.2%)	108,220 (46.8%)	231,319
<u>Neighbourhoods</u>			
Callingwood S.	474 (21.0%)	1,782 (79.0%)	2,255
Callingwood N.	469 (46.0%)	551 (54.0%)	1,020
Ormsby Place	685 (49.8%)	691 (50.2%)	1,376
Thorncliff	699 (52.2%)	641 (47.8%)	1,340
Belmead	733 (55.7%)	588 (44.5%)	1,321
Aldergrove	821 (57.7%)	601 (42.3%)	1,422
La Perle	821 (59.0%)	573 (41.0%)	1,394
Summerlea	257 (60.3%)	169 (39.7%)	426
Gariepy	482 (69.4%)	212 (30.6%)	693
Lymburn	847 (79.0%)	316 (21.2%)	1,163
Donsdale	49 (92.3%)	4 (7.7%)	52
Dechene	33 (94.3%)	2 (5.7%)	35
Jamieson Place	33 (94.3%)	2 (5.7%)	35
Wedgewood Heights	48 (92.3%)	4 (7.7%)	52
West Jasper Place	8,099	6,668	14,763

h) Mix of Residential Dwelling Units (Table 8)

All the West Jasper Place neighbourhoods (for which data was examined) show a large proportion of apartment and row housing to single and duplex units. Such dwelling units as apartments and row housing frequently lack adequate recreational areas for children, and their layout is such that inter-neighbour interactions are not encouraged.

An increase in the proportion of row housing to apartment and single family units was noted, from 30% in 1981 to over 35% at the end of 1982.

Table 8

Mix of Residential Dwelling Units

<u>Neighbourhood</u>	<u>Apartment Units</u>	<u>Row Housing Units</u>	<u>Single Semi Duplex Units</u>	<u>Total</u>
Aldergrove	585 (43.8%)	368 (27.5%)	383 (28.7%)	1,336
Belmead	533 (40.0%)	570 (42.7%)	233 (17.4%)	1,336
Callingwood	128 (4.6%)	1,065 (38.4%)	1,580 (57.0%)	2,773
Dechene	20 (100.0%)	-	-	20
Donsdale	-	-	-	-
Gariepy	-	-	-	-
Jamieson Place	160 (100.0%)	-	-	160
La Perle	481 (36.1%)	440 (33.0%)	412 (30.9%)	1,333
Lymburn	643 (57.2%)	330 (29.3%)	152 (13.5%)	1,125
Ormsby Place	426 (32.2%)	576 (43.5%)	32 (24.3%)	1,323
Summerlea	223 (51.6%)	209 (48.4%)	-	432
Terra Losa	-	-	-	-
Thorncliff	413 (30.9%)	486 (36.4%)	438 (32.8%)	1,337
Wedgewood Heights	-	-	-	-
	<u>3,612</u> (32.3%)	<u>4,044</u> (36.2%)	<u>3,519</u> (31.5%)	<u>11,175</u> (100%)

Source: Status of Residential Land in the City of Edmonton, December 31, 1982.

i) Juvenile Probation Cases (Table 9)

Although the number of individuals in the 12-15 age group is less than half that of Glengarry (the office which has the highest number of cases), Jasper Place has almost as many probation cases as Glengarry. In Glengarry, individuals involved in the court system between the ages of 12-15 comprise 1.3% of the total population between 12-15. In Jasper Place they comprise 2.5% of this age group. Individuals may be seen by Edmonton Social Services for offences such as shoplifting, possession of stolen property, and theft under and over \$200.00.

Breakdowns for West Jasper Place alone were not available, but the figures mentioned do indicate a high concentration of juvenile related problems in the area under consideration.

Table 9

Juvenile Probation Cases: Jasper Place District and Glengarry District Comparison (Edmonton Social Services)*

	<u>Probation Cases</u>	<u>Percentage of City Total</u>	<u>Total in 12-15 Age Group</u>
Glengarry	111	21.8%	8,558
Jasper Place	104	20.4%	4,136

Source: Edmonton Social Services, PEB, 1984.

* Probation cases refer to individuals appearing in Juvenile Court, with varying dispositions, (i.e. community service orders) as well as those actually placed on probation.

Existing Programs for Youth in West Jasper Place

a) Community League Facilities (Table 10)

Only six out of a possible 14 neighbourhoods have community league programs, and of these, only Aldergrove has a building of its own. The number of youth between the ages of 3-17 participating in the programs offered is 1,326. Programs offered are described as mainly sports programs. A total of 10,636 in the 0-19 age group for West Jasper Place indicates approximately 12% participation in community league programs. It must be noted that the total of 1,326 may include double-counting as children involved in one sport in the summer months, baseball example, may also be involved in hockey during the winter. The average community league charges \$20.00 per family for a yearly membership. Registration for sports programs is extra, and can range from \$40.00 - \$80.00 per program not including equipment.

Table 10

Community League Facilities

<u>Neighbourhood</u>	<u>Type of Program</u>	<u>Age Served</u>	<u>Number Served</u>
Callingwood	mainly sports	6-14 yrs	150
Aldergrove	mainly sports	3-13 yrs	400
Lessard	sports	12-15 yrs	18
Thorncliff	sports, fitness, dance	4-17 yrs	109
Ormsby	crafts, drop-in mainly soccer	6-12 yrs	108
La Perle	no programs for youth	-	-
Total			1,326

Sources: R. Leibo, West Jasper Place Neighbourhood Association, Feb., 1984;
G. Benner, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, April, 1984.

b) Parks and Recreation Facilities and Programs

Concerning recreational programs and facilities, Steve Thompson, the District Recreational Co-ordinator for the West District Office, states that there is very little in West Jasper Place in the way of recreational facilities. Community league programs are directed at children aged 6-14, and programs offered for teens have met with varying degrees of success and failure.

There are currently six community leagues operating in West Jasper Place (see Table), only one of which has its own building. The main recreational facilities in these areas are the schools, used by the community leagues and Boy Scout and Girl Guide type programs (see Table). The only privately operated recreational facilities are "The Club" at West Edmonton Village (mostly for adults who are tenants of the complex) and "Fantasy Land" at West Edmonton Mall.

Mr. Thompson states that the Edmonton Parks and Recreation department has no facilities at the moment in West Jasper Place except for some parkland in developmental stages. Static, supervised playground programs are operated at only five sites: Garipey, Lyburn, Ormsby Place, Aldergrove and Belmead. Of these five, two are at the moment half-time programs. Thorncliff (St. Justin's School) serves as the base for travelling programs to as yet an unidentified number of sites. "Summer Safari" programs are offered to give children opportunities to travel outside their immediate area.

Mr. Thompson stated that during the rest of the year the department serves as a resource to community leagues and other small groups or individuals in the area.

Source: Edmonton Parks and Recreation, West District Office, November, 1983

c) Boy Scout Programs in West Jasper Place (Table 11)

Boy Scout programs are offered at six sites in West Jasper Place: Belmead, Aldergrove, Thorncliff, Callingwood, West Edmonton Village, and Ormsby Place. A total of 382 boys between the ages of 5-16 participate in these programs, compared to the 4,703 boys between the ages of 5-19. Approximately 8% of the total eligible population participate in Boy Scout programs.

Table 11

Boy Scout Programs in West Jasper Place

<u>Neighbourhood</u>	* <u>Program</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>	<u>Number of Leaders</u>
Belmead	Beavers, Cubs	53	5
Aldergrove	Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers	91	22
Thorncliff	Beavers, Cubs	67	10
Callingwood	Cubs	14	5
West Edmonton Village	Beavers, Cubs	23	13
Ormsby Place	Beavers, Cubs, Scouts	84	20
Total		332	75

* Age Breakdowns for Programs are as follows:

Beavers Ages	5 - 7
Cubs	8 -10
Scouts	11- 13
Venturers	14- 16

Source: Boy Scouts of Canada, Edmonton Region, February, 1984.

d) Girl Guide Programs in West Jasper Place

According to a commissionaire for the area, Girl Guide programs are offered in the Ormsby Place neighbourhood. Brownie and Guide programs (ages 6-9 and 9-12 respectively) serve 96 girls in the area. Information was available from only one of two commissionaires for the West Jasper Place area, but it is estimated that approximately 200 girls participate in Guide programs in these neighbourhoods. This being the case, less than 4% of eligible girls are involved in the above programs.

Source: Girl Guides of Canada; West Jasper Place Commissionaire, March, 1984

The total number of participants in existing youth programs (including community league, Boy and Girl Scout programs) is only approximately 1,860 out of a total of 10,636, or 17%.

e) Existing Social/Recreational Services For Youth (Map, page 26)

Although various programs exist for youth throughout the city, these are spread north and south, with a noticeable gap in the west area. Programs such as the YMCA, YWCA, Boys and Girls Club, Project Breakthrough and Teen Time provide social/recreational programs and services to youth in areas far from West Jasper Place neighbourhoods.

f) YMCA/YWCA Programs

Although the YWCA does run programs throughout the year out of Thorncliff School, these programs are adult fitness and sports programs. No programs of this type are sponsored by the YMCA/YWCA for youth in the area at the present time.

Source: YMCA/YWCA programs winter/spring, 1984.

g) Community Service Facilities

Only one church and one community hall presently exist in West Jasper Place. There is no recreation complex and few social/health service facilities in the area (A.A.D.A.C., West Jasper Place Health Clinic and West Jasper Place Neighbourhood Association).

Source: Edmonton Social Services, V. Renaud, February, 1984.

h) Schools

Although many communities have elementary schools, students in junior and senior high school must attend school outside West Jasper Place. Removal from their own neighbourhoods lessens chances for interaction with peers within the neighbourhood, especially during after-school hours and the summer months. A Boys and Girls Club facility would provide a place where such social/recreational interactions could take place. Given the high teen population, and high probation caseload, it would seem that there is a need for this type of facility.

Source: Edmonton Social Services, V. Renaud, February, 1984.

Key Informant Information

a) West Jasper Place Health Clinic

As the only public health clinic convenient to the West Jasper Place area, the clinic serves a variety of residents within the area. Having dealt with the youth of this area in some capacity, the public health nurse was able to comment on existing/needed services for youth.

It was felt that programs are extremely limited for children and no developed parks or "freeplay" areas to which children readily have access exist.

It was mentioned that community leagues have been slow to develop, and although areas such as Belmead, Laperle and Aldergrove were said to be neighbourhoods where large numbers of children are unsupervised, few programs exist.

The location of West Edmonton Mall was also felt to be a problem; it has become a meeting place for teens, contributing to truancy and involvement with drugs.

Source: Lynn Ozarko, Public Health Nurse, March, 1984.

b) Edmonton Public School Board: Bureau Services

Bureau services serves as a diagnostic, referral, and programming service for children in the Edmonton Public School system. A member of the Sector F Team which serves West Jasper Place as a part of its district was interviewed by telephone concerning services for youth in West Jasper Place.

It was felt that there is a general lack of facilities in the area, community league activity is low, and there are no church youth groups. West Edmonton Mall was identified as a problem; many youth who have nothing else to do go to the mall after school, as they do not attend school in their own neighbourhoods.

Although teen programs have met with only partial success in the area, it was felt that the Boys and Girls Club Facility would be used as a social area for teens.

Thorncliff was identified as an active neighbourhood because of the community school, but it was pointed out that the community school programs were essentially for motivated children with supportive parents. It was this professional's opinion that nothing exists for "problem kids" and a Boys and Girls Club could be a positive step toward meeting this need.

Source: Barry Hefferman, Bureau Services, March, 1984.

c) Thornclyff Community School

The principal of Thornclyff School has expressed concern over the lack of activities for teen within West Jasper Place in general, and Thornclyff area in particular. West Edmonton Mall was also felt to be a problem, attracting kids left on their own because their parents work. Since they attend school outside the area, they have no "meeting place" to call their own. The principal expressed a desire to see a Boys and Girls Club in Thornclyff as in his opinion, the need exists, and Thornclyff is a central location. In addition the community is motivated, organized and would be willing to provide volunteers and space in the school if necessary.

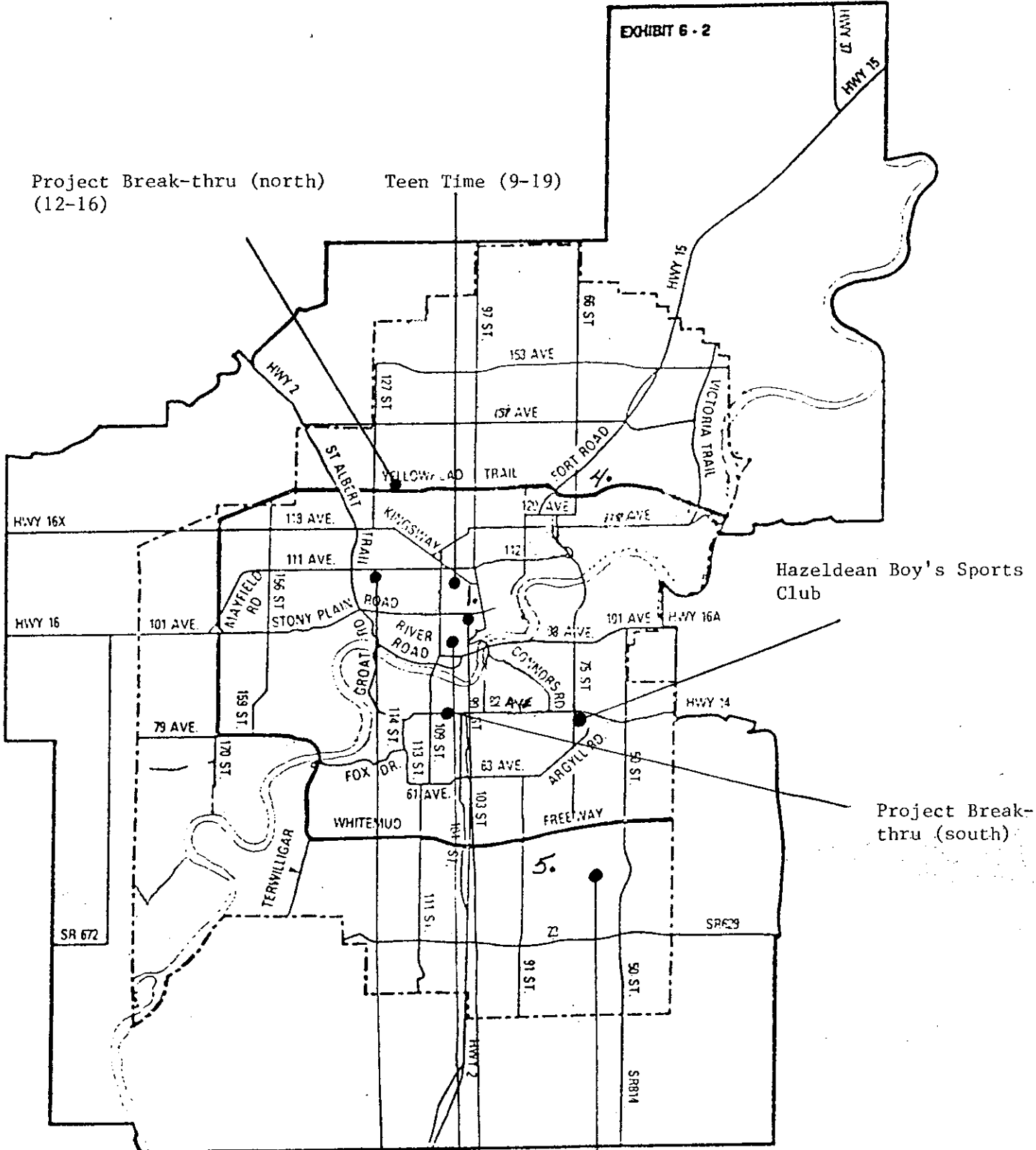
Source: Mr. R. Knowles, February, 1984.

d) Church Activities for Youth

Reverend Ian MacMillan, who has had a parish in the West Jasper Place area was interviewed by telephone concerning services for youth in the area. He expressed his concern over the lack of social/recreational activities for teens within the community. It was his opinion that many teens lose contacts in their local neighbourhoods when they attend school outside the area. Parks and recreation programs were described as "only of a recreational nature", lacking the essential social component. It was felt that teens need a "place of their own" and that a Boys and Girls Club could possibly be that facility.

LOCATIONS OF EXISTING SERVICES FOR YOUTH *

EXHIBIT 6-2



Project Break-thru (north)
(12-16)

Teen Time (9-19)

Hazeldean Boy's Sports Club

Project Break-thru (south)

* Boy Scout and Girl Guide programs as previously mentioned not included.

YMCA (west)

YMCA (downtown)

YMCA (Millwoods)

YWCA (downtown)

Boys and Girls Clubs

1. McCauley
2. Dickensfield
3. Rundle
4. St. Francis
5. Tweddle Place

CONCLUSION

The concern of the Boys and Girls Club for lack of youth services in West Jasper Place stems from a fundamental belief in the necessity of activities which encourage the social, educational, physical and character development of youth. Inherent in this value base is the belief that all children need a supportive social environment in which to interact with their peers, not simply a recreational one.

Although this service may be needed by many children, the focus of the Boys and Girls Club is children of single parent and/or low income families. It is believed that they, of all children need the types of programs provided by the Boys and Girls Club.

The preceding documentation and analysis has shown West Jasper Place to be an area characterized by a significant number of single parents/low income families, short lengths of residency, high density housing and a glaring lack of youth services.

Significant professionals and community figures have recognized the serious problems which exist for youth in the area, particularly Thorncliff, which has the highest number of single parent families and lowest average income. Rather than leaving these problems to escalate, it is strongly recommended that steps be taken to establish the Boys and Girls Club service now. Support for the service exists, especially in Thorncliff, and the large and growing youth population will ensure that the service is needed and used for years to come.