Your new neighbourhood - recommender system (The Battle of Neighbourhoods)

Introduction/Business problem

When people relocate to unfamiliar city/town it takes significant amount of time and effort to find the right place to live and choose the right neighbourhood to be happy in. In some cases we can get guidance from people we might know, or the employer, if this is work related relocation. Unfortunately, for many people this help is not available and they have to rely on their own research of the new location.

Many real estate web sites, apart form property selection and prices, often provide an additional information such as demographics, schools and transportation availability in the area. However, many important aspects and characteristics of the desired neighbourhood are missing. For example, availability of sport and outdoor activities that can be enjoyed on the daily bases, cafes, restaurants, community centres, banks, gas stations, supermarkets and so on. The list can be pretty long and in order to make a right choice we have to spend hour and hour of researching the area just to realise it is not the right one.

The goal of this study is to create a system based on the Foursquare data which will use user preferences to recommend the top neighbourhoods which closely match with majority of desired point of interest of the user. The system can complement real estate search engines or can be used as stand alone tool for the first discovery step in the users journey to find the desired neighbourhood.