

Sunnyside sanitary lift station FAQs

What is a sanitary lift station?

Calgary's wastewater system is a gravity fed system – that means that sanitary flows are mostly driven by gravity to get wastewater to our treatment facilities. A sanitary lift station is essentially a pump that moves sanitary wastewater towards The City's wastewater treatment facilities when gravity is not an option due to the elevation of an area. These stations are only part of the sanitary system – they do not have any bearing on the drainage of storm water in their service area.

When will the Sunnyside sanitary lift station be built?

Construction on the new sanitary lift station is expected to begin in late 2016. Construction will take approximately 1 year to complete, followed by three to four months of commissioning. Service will remain uninterrupted during construction and commissioning.

How will residents be impacted by construction?

During the construction of the new sanitary lift station, residents can expect noise from equipment and higher than average traffic in the area. There will be traffic diversion for approximately two weeks (reduced to one lane of traffic) on 3 St NW in front of the Calgary Curling Club. We will adhere to noise bylaws, including working hours during the weekday and weekends.

Why are you building a new sanitary lift station in Sunnyside?

With the data collected from the 2013 flood and the subsequent study done on the flow in Sunnyside in 2014/2015 we saw a need to replace the lift station and upgrade it in a number of ways to make sure the area continues to receive a high level of service. One of the drivers with this sanitary lift station is the flood resiliency report that has directed the construction of all critical infrastructure to be resilient to 1 in 100 year flood events.

How much will this sanitary lift station cost?

The estimated cost of the exterior facade ranges between approximately \$190,000 and \$230,000 – final costs will depend on the materials used. They all have similar anti-graffiti properties in terms of maintenance.

Why has it taken so long to build a new sanitary lift station after the 2013 floods?

After the 2013 floods, a study was undertaken to collect data on the sanitary lift station requirements in Sunnyside. Once the study was completed in 2015, we hired a consultant who developed the preliminary design that is under review now.

Why is the new sanitary lift station bigger?

The reason the new lift station is bigger is that we needed more space for the equipment used to run the lift station. Safety requirements have changed since the old one was built in 1958, increasing space requirements for the safety of maintenance personnel. The reason it is higher is so we can house the sensitive equipment on the second floor, keeping it safe up to a 1 in 100 year flood event.