



# Deer Run Sanitary Lift Station

Report Back: What We Did  
Winter 2022

## Project overview

The Deer Run Lift Station is located at 2147 Deer Side Dr. SE. The existing sanitary lift station was built in 1976 and requires significant infrastructure upgrades to extend its lifecycle and ensure long lasting, efficient service. Because this lift station is located next to one of Calgary's favourite parks, we wanted to give local residents and the general public the opportunity to help choose the exterior finish - and help ensure it matches the aesthetic of the community and natural park surroundings.

As part of this work, a second building is required. Standards such as safety requirements and building codes (and best practices among them) have significantly changed since 1976 – resulting in the increased space needs.

## What did we do with the input received?

Targeted questions were asked in line with the three design options that the project team had provided. The top themes that emerged when discussing the design options for the lift station are listed below.

When discussing the options that were presented, a clear majority of people who responded indicated a preference for design option 3. Of note, the physical location of the second building was moved to sit just south of the existing building. This change in location moves it slightly farther away from the pathway system and reduces the visual impact of the second building.

Most participants also noted that the more natural base colour of this design was more appealing. Many noted that they would prefer that the white geometric design either be revised to reflect a more natural motif (e.g., tree silhouettes reflecting the surrounding birch stands), changed to a more muted earth tone, or simply removed.

Below you will see the themes that emerged from our public engagement and the responses from the team as to how that feedback will be used to further refine the plan. The full [What We Heard report is available here](#).

	What did you like?	What would you improve?
<b>Design Option 1</b>	<p><b>Materials</b> - Most participants commented that they liked the use of Thermowood and the longevity it would offer.</p> <p><b>Design</b> - Some commented that it had a more natural appearance and would fit well into the aesthetic of the park and surrounding homes.</p>	<p><b>More natural / neutral colours</b> - Most participants noted that they would prefer more natural/neutral colours that would blend into the surrounding community.</p> <p><b>Fit with surrounding homes</b> - Some participants commented the design did not fit well with adjacent homes.</p> <p><b>More natural materials</b> - Some participants suggested the incorporation of more natural materials such as stone and real wood.</p>
<b>Design Option 2</b>	<p><b>Materials</b> - Some participants commented that the materials used in this design appeared to be the most durable.</p>	<p><b>Colour</b> - Most participants did not find the accent colours (blue and yellow) appealing.</p> <p><b>Design</b> - This option was the least favoured. Most participants commented that it was too industrial looking for the surrounding homes and the park setting.</p>
<b>Design Option 3</b>	<p><b>Design</b> – The clear majority of participants indicated their preference for option 3. Many respondents commented that this design fit better with both the surrounding residences and the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Colour</b> – Many respondents commented that the more natural base colour in this option was the most appealing of those presented.</p> <p><b>Materials</b> - Many respondents commented on the longevity of the Thermowood as a positive attribute and the eco-friendly aspects of the material.</p>	<p><b>Design</b> - Most noted that they would prefer that the white geometric design either be revised to reflect a more natural motif (e.g., tree silhouettes reflecting the surrounding birch stands), changed to a more muted earth tone or removed completely.</p>

### **Additional Feedback Received:**

<b>Physical Location</b>	Many people indicated they did not like the physical location of the second building and that it was too close to the pathway.
<b>Landscaping</b>	Several comments were received in favour of landscaping being incorporated into the final design.

### **WHAT WE DID:**

**Design:** The project team pursued option 3 due to the clear majority of respondents in favour of this design. The white geometric line feature was removed, while materials and colours were further modified to make it appear as natural as possible. Positive comments from options 1 and 2 were incorporated where possible in effort to have the facility blend in as much as possible with the surrounding landscape and adjacent homes.

**Colour / Aesthetic:** The exterior aesthetic was muted in colour, made more earthy-toned, and most architectural elements were removed.

**Materials:** Thermowood was used in the final design. Also known as heat treated timber, it is a natural and sustainable material produced using a chemical-free heat treatment. It has several advantages including durability against decay and weather events and a prolonged left expectancy.

**Physical Location:** The physical location of the second building was moved to sit just south of the existing building. This change in location moves it slightly farther away from the pathway system and reduces the visual impact of the second building.

**Landscaping:** Landscaping was incorporated to include native plants, trees and grasses to help the project footprint blend in with the surrounding area.

### **Next steps**

Construction is due to begin in Spring 2023, and updates will continue to be made on the [project website](#) as more information becomes available. The full [What We Heard report](#) is available here.