



# IRVING FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT SECTION III FALL NEWSLETTER 2023

## 40 Years of IFCD 3

Welcome to this special edition newsletter dedicated to celebrating Irving Flood Control District III's 40th anniversary! For the past 40 years, IFCD 3 has delivered innovative and effective flood control methods to the Valley Ranch community, keeping residents safe from potential flooding from the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. To kick off this newsletter, let's walk through the milestones and innovations that have occurred over the past four decades.



The Texas State Legislature commissioned IFCD 3 to design, engineer and construct a levee and flood control system to protect the newly created Valley Ranch community from the 100-year floodplain of the Elm Fork of the Trinity River.



With the major development of businesses, schools and homes across Irving throughout the late 1980s, the Valley Ranch Association (VRA) was created to provide a welcoming and attractive atmosphere for the residents of Valley Ranch. From home management to community enhancement and maintenance projects, VRA was made to serve the Valley Ranch community in all aspects of living.

As VRA continued to grow, it attracted highly educated residents who were perfect to serve on IFCD 3's resident-run board of directors. Not long after IFCD 3 was created, the Irving City Council elected the first-ever IFCD 3 board, made up of Valley Ranch residents with a passion for flood control.



Beginning with an engineering plan in 2010, IFCD 3 launched a phased project to modernize the 30-year-old technology within the IFCD 3 pump station and construct an onsite power generator to enhance the reliability of our system during severe storms.

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Using the budget available through the efficient use of past years' capital improvement funding, we were able to update the original transformer and motor controls within the pump station at no additional cost to taxpayers. We also installed new equipment and underground cables to prepare for the implementation of an onsite backup power generator that would automatically start to provide electricity to the station in the event of a power outage.

By the end of 2015, we successfully completed the installation of our onsite diesel-powered generators that would provide an additional layer of protection to Valley Ranch in the event of a power outage during a severe storm.



To further educate the community on IFCD 3's roles and responsibilities, IFCD 3 launched a partnership with local elementary schools to teach students about weather and flood control. For the last six years, IFCD 3 has sparked students' interest in weather, flood control and engineering through this hands-on group project.

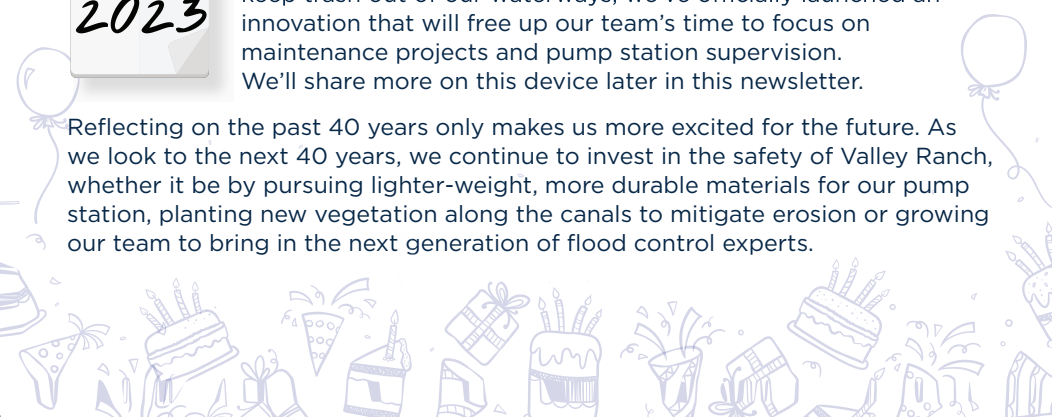


After years of running ifcd3.org, we launched Waterways, the official blog of IFCD 3 that aims to dive deeper into flood control and related topics. Over the past four years, we've published 85+ blog posts that highlight maintenance projects, weather patterns, our school program and more. Read Waterways by going to [ifcd3.org/waterways](http://ifcd3.org/waterways).



IFCD 3 collects about 40 tons of trash from our waterways each year - that's equivalent to the weight of 23 mid-size cars! To help keep trash out of our waterways, we've officially launched an innovation that will free up our team's time to focus on maintenance projects and pump station supervision. We'll share more on this device later in this newsletter.

Reflecting on the past 40 years only makes us more excited for the future. As we look to the next 40 years, we continue to invest in the safety of Valley Ranch, whether it be by pursuing lighter-weight, more durable materials for our pump station, planting new vegetation along the canals to mitigate erosion or growing our team to bring in the next generation of flood control experts.



# News Briefs



## TAX RATE

At the September 18, 2023, IFCD 3 board meeting, members adopted a rate of \$0.1035 per \$100 of true valuation for the 2023 tax year. This is a \$0.0085 reduction compared to last year's tax rate of \$0.1120. This annual tax funds operations, preventative maintenance, inspections and facility repairs.

## IFCD 3 FOR KIDS

After six years of IFCD 3's elementary school program, we've created a second lesson course in an online, self-guided format to increase the number of students who can access our educational resources. The online course, IFCD 3 for Kids, includes a self-guided presentation, workbook, coloring book and links to additional resources from trusted experts in the field. Learn more at [ifcd3.org/ifcd3-for-kids](https://ifcd3.org/ifcd3-for-kids).

## IFCD 3 IN THE COMMUNITY

While our focus on flood control may appear unrelated to Keep Irving Beautiful's environmental initiatives, their work drastically improves our flood control efforts by reducing the amount of trash that ends up in our waterways and facilities. To support their mission, IFCD 3 participated in KIB's 32nd Annual Trash Bash. During the event, 400+ volunteers gathered at T.W. Richardson Grove Park, collecting 1,680 pounds of trash and 660 pounds of recyclables! The community also donated 810 pounds of canned food to Crisis Ministries.

## SCOOP IS LIVE

Remember our previous mentions of the trash collection device, Scoop? We're proud to announce that Scoop officially launched in our waterways earlier this fall. Not only does this device collect trash throughout the 5.5 miles of waterways throughout Valley Ranch, but it also enables our hard-working staff to have time to focus on maintenance projects and running the pump station, rather than the mundane task of picking trash out of the water. To learn more about Scoop, we encourage you to visit our new landing page ([ifcd3.org/scoop](https://ifcd3.org/scoop)) which features a video of Scoop in action, as well as additional information about the device.

# Project Updates

**Pump Rehabilitation** – After 40 years of use, it was time to update the materials and lubrication of our pump station's six pumps. In September, we celebrated the completed rehabilitation of all six pumps! The new, lighter-weight, more durable pumps will reduce energy costs and move water faster than the previous pumps, enabling us to efficiently manage flooding for decades to come.

**Discharge Pipe Inspection** – After conducting routine inspections, we identified early signs of natural deterioration within a portion of the pump station's discharge pipe. We've sent the project out for bids and will move forward with the project later this fiscal year.

**Tilting Weir Installation** – Last fiscal year, IFCD 3 received approved funding to install a titling weir, which will help reduce the use of electric pumps before, during and after storms, decreasing the amount of electricity used and extending the life of the pumps. After researching and designing a tilting weir, IFCD 3 has now secured a contractor and will soon move forward with installation.

# CONNECT WITH US

The IFCD 3 Board meets monthly at the Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District offices located at 850 E. Las Colinas Blvd. These meetings focus on flood control developments, maintenance projects and financial budget allocations. Valley Ranch citizens and property owners are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

For weekly updates from IFCD 3, follow us on Facebook (@IrvingFloodControl) and X, previously known as Twitter, (@IFCD3).

Don't forget to also visit our website (ifcd3.org) and our blog, Waterways (ifcd3.org/waterways). We cover recently asked questions, community events, weather trends and more!

Should you see an issue that needs immediate attention, such as a problem in our waterways, call (972) 556-0625. If there is an emergency, dial 911 and report the information to the City of Irving public safety officials.



@IrvingFloodControl



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