



Village of Bear Creek Newsletter

New security cameras at our entrances.

After many years of listening to residents and their concerns for the safety and security of our community, we invested in the Flock Safety solution for the two entrances to our village.

This type of technology only recently became affordable to a small community such as the Village of Bear Creek. The recurring annual cost is approximately \$7,500. This solution enables three things:

1. Deterrence; Criminals know to look for Flock Camera installations and many will choose to avoid communities with camera installation in place. (We already have evidence of this with no reported “porch pirate” holiday package thefts over the 2025 Christmas Season in the VOBC)
2. Prevention; Vehicles with known associations with criminal behavior are entered into the Flock System by law enforcement and if one of these vehicles are detected entering VOBC, law enforcement is automatically notified within seconds and can proactively intercept the vehicle before a crime occurs in the VOBC.
3. Crime Solving; Many crimes such as breaking and entering are difficult to solve without supplemental information such as a vehicle description and license plate information along with an accurate date and time of the criminal act, these cameras provide that for the VOBC entrances.

Flock provides two different access options, only one can be implemented. One is for law enforcement with closed access to badged officers only and all searches are logged with case numbers. The other is an HOA option that allows for open access. We selected the law enforcement option and it is defaulted to the Hays County Sheriff’s Department. All other law enforcement access is blocked unless approved by the VOBC.

Why did we choose this option? The VOBC is at the extreme edge of Hays County and the Sheriff’s department is spread pretty thin across our large County. This implementation is a force multiplier for the Hays County Sheriff’s office, it gives them a powerful crime prevention and crime solving tool for the specific benefit of the residents of the VOBC. It also better protects the privacy/confidentiality of the VOBC recorded data.

What this means for each of us is that the use of the Flock Safety camera data are tied to crime-fighting operations. When a theft, assault, or other event occurs, the resident should call the Hays County Sheriff's Department and report the incident. As the crime is investigated, if applicable, vehicle information will be retrieved by the investigating team and will be used in the apprehension and prosecution of the accused.

The VOBC implementation stores the video data on similar servers to those the US Department of War uses, and therefore exceed our security goals, and data is only retained for 30-days, so we recommend that law enforcement be contacted as quickly as possible after the incident to ensure that Hays County investigators have ample time to complete their work and save the applicable recorded data.

Flood Water Study and Road Culvert Upgrades

The Village of Bear Creek completed a Federally required flood water study. This study is required for compliance to FEMA regulations and management of Federal and locally designated floodplains. For those with property in one of these flood plains, VOBC compliance with these regulations ensures that those property owners can purchase Federal Flood Insurance.

The VOBC received federal funds under the Corona Virus Fiscal Recovery Plan, and one of the few things that the VOBC could use those funds on were flood mitigation, so the council approved the use of those funds for the above mentioned study and associated road crossing culvert improvements identified by that study. The construction crews present in the fall of 2025 were working on those improvements. That work is now completed.

The results of the study are in the process of being incorporated into several of the VOBC ordinances, including the driveway ordinance for use in private driveway culvert sizing.

Driveway Culverts

Many of us have driveways that were installed by the original lot developers in the 1970's and 1980's. Many of those old culverts have experienced damage from vehicles and lawn mowers and are crushed in, and in addition many years of sediment may be impeding proper rainwater flow.

We want to take this time to remind everyone that it is each homeowner's responsibility to clean out and if necessary repair or replace your driveway culverts.

If culvert replacements are planned, please also be aware that the culvert must be upgraded to the current defined size and that an application must be submitted for VOBC review and approval.

10-year Trash Contract with Texas Disposal Systems (TDS)

In 2025 The VOBC signed a 10-year contract renewal with TDS after completing a public competitive bid process.

We were able to retain nearly identical trash service including the annual city clean-up day that is hugely popular with most residents. Scheduled for April 11th, 2026 from 9AM - 1 PM.

In addition, we now have a new service available called "bulky pickup", here are the details:

TDS shall provide two (2) curbside bulky or brush waste collection(s) per contract Year to each Residential Customer. Residential Customer must call the TDS to schedule their bulky or brush collections. Additional bulky or brush waste collections will be provided upon request at an additional fee.

A) TDS is not required to pick up refrigerators unless written evidence is posted in clear view of refrigerator and all other applicable appliances that all Refrigerant has been removed by a certified refrigeration technician.

B) Each collection will restrict the volume collected to three (3) cubic yards per Residential Unit.

C) Mattress collection will be performed at an additional charge.

D) Yard waste must be bundled and tied and cut into four (4) foot lengths, not to exceed thirty-five (35) pounds per bundle. Limbs within the bundle must be no more than four (4) inches in diameter.

Our area is in a stage 3 drought

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/news/edwards-aquifer-nears-emergency-drought-conditions/>