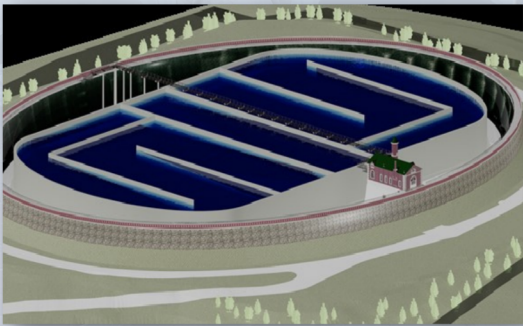


LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE

Today, the reservoir stores clean, treated water to be distributed to our community. It is not only the oldest but also the largest of 35 reservoirs within the city of Nashville and accounts for 60 percent of the total storage volume. In 2021, MWS began an extensive project to renew the reservoir and enhance its operation. This project will allow the reservoir to store clean water for many generations to come and will preserve its history.



Funded with a State Revolving Fund loan, this project is a celebration of Nashville's history and the future of our community. Currently, the reservoir is operated at half capacity, 25.5 million gallons, but with the innovative tank-in-tank design, the reservoir will provide 35 million gallons of storage once complete. The new reservoir will not only maintain water quality with a series of baffles that move water evenly through the reservoir, but these improvements will also restore the beautiful historic gatehouse sitting atop the reservoir.

Learn more at historic8thavenuereservoir.com



METRO WATER SERVICES

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8TH AVENUE RESERVOIR

ESTABLISHED 1889

METRO WATER SERVICES



THE CITY RESERVOIR 08.24.1889



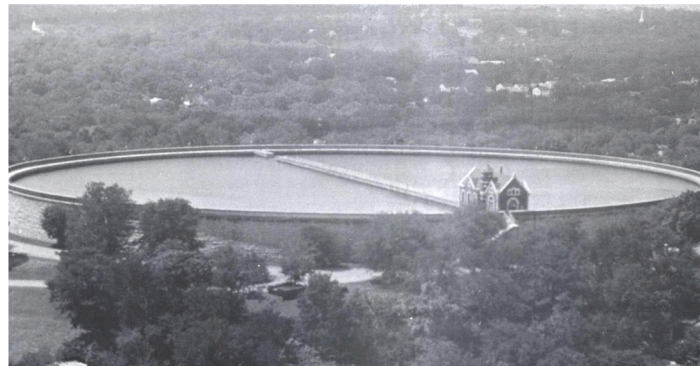
In 1887, J. A. Jowett, the City Engineer, prepared the plans and specifications to construct City Reservoir on Kirkpatrick's Hill, the site of Fort Casino during the 1864 Battle of Nashville. Whitsett and Adams won the competitive contract and began construction of Nashville's second reservoir in 1887. The reservoir, completed August 24, 1889, cost \$364,525.21.

When the reservoir was first constructed, the City did not have a filtration plant; water treatment consisted of allowing the mud to settle to the bottom of the reservoir basin. The two-compartment reservoir design allowed the west side to function as a settling basin. As mud settled out of the stored water, the clear water at the top of the basin flowed through a channel, or weir, in the cross wall to the east basin.

The cleaner, settled water flowed to the community through a series of cast iron and wooden pipes. A gatehouse on top of the reservoir houses valves and served as a shelter for the custodian. A 9 ft. walkway, with sidewalls, runs along the top of the reservoir.

The City Reservoir, now known as the 8th Avenue Reservoir, is the largest of Metro Water Services' reservoirs with a capacity of 51 million gallons. The National Park Service placed the City Reservoir on the National Register of Historic Places on March 30, 1978.

Although no longer used as a settling basin, the 8th Avenue Reservoir is still in use today to store clean water, treated at one of our two treatment plants, for distribution to the community.



THE CITY RESERVOIR 11.05.1912

MASSIVE WALLS OF CITY RESERVOIR CRUMBLE WITHOUT MINUTE'S WARNING



At 12:10 a.m., Tuesday, November 5, 1912, the southeast quadrant of the 8th Avenue Reservoir broke away. This allowed 25 million gallons of water to flow toward the State Fairgrounds. Many houses were washed from their foundations and considerable damage resulted from the sudden flooding in the vicinity but fortunately, no lives were lost. Estimated property damage was \$75 - \$100,000. The cost of repairing the reservoir was \$100,000.

For some time before the break in the reservoir occurred, observers noticed that a large stream of water was running down the gutter on Eighth Avenue. Some engineers claimed the cause of the break was slipping of the clay strata, causing the wall to slide. It is more likely that the leaking water gradually dissolved the clay, which allowed the thin ledges of stone to settle until the wall broke. The wall did not fail from water pressure.