



November 5, 1912

At 12:10 a.m., Tuesday, November 5, 1912, the Southeast quadrant of the 8th Ave. 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, it was noticed that a large stream of water was running down the gutter on Eighth Avenue. Some engineers claimed the cause of the break was saponification 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. The entire interior of the structure was relined with gunite and waterproofed in 1921.

Currently, seepage and ground movement near the reservoir is monitored daily and inspections are done yearly to check for possible settlement.

