

Roseburn Floods – Wednesday 26 April 2000

A couple of days of unrelenting rain, 100mm falling in over 48 hours. The Water of Leith burst its banks, the park was a lake and the rugby pitch at Murrayfield Stadium was submerged to waist height. £25m of damage was caused, affecting 500 properties. Old people's homes and houses were evacuated, some by boat. People were sheltering in Roseburn Primary School.

Some footage of the floods here:- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oVcbJu6k5U>

Many who stay in the area will remember the sights on the following day as locals threw out the flood damaged items from their homes, and swans swam on the playing fields under the cherry blossom.



There was a constant noise of pumping from the stadium day and night as it was drained for the [Silk Cut Challenge Final](#) playing on the Saturday.

This event led to a big flood defences project which was completed in January 2018. Flood defences were constructed over 1.2km along both sides of the Water of Leith to provide a 1 in 200 year standard of protection.

Works included top-of-bank, reinforced concrete piled retaining walls, which incorporate embedded steel sheet pile foundations that further reduce flood risk by controlling seepage during long duration storm events. Enhancement of the river flow regime was achieved through the demolition

of 4 bridges across the river and their replacement with two new road bridges and by provision of an overflow channel to provide additional storage capacity.

Floodgates are closed when the water-level passes markers.



Floodgate on Saughtonhall Bridge, Dec 2020

The flood defences removed 30 trees, a lilac hedge and a wildlife corridor on a narrow track between Baird Drive and Saughtonhall Bridges. The track has been widened and tarmacked, the riverside is now accessible at the floodplain, the banks have been replanted, and in spring and summer are full of flowers.