

Movable Bridge Openings





Movable Bridge Openings 2014 - 17

Year	Bridge Openings	Water Level in July (ft. above sea level)
2014	14,003	578.9
2015	21,835	579.8
2016	21,904	580.2
2017	23,244	580.7



Movable Bridge Openings By Bridge

Bridge	Openings
West Wisconsin Avenue	3,649
West Michigan Street	3,559
West Wells Street	3,305
North Water Street	3,096
North Broadway	3,073
East Clybourn Street	1,876
West St. Paul Avenue	1,712
South Kinnickinnic Avenue	1,043
West Kilbourn Avenue	680
West State Street	635
South 1st Street	276
North Plankinton Avenue	226
South 6th Street	24
East Juneau Avenue	24
East Pleasant Street	19
West Highland Avenue	18
East Knapp Street	12
North 6th Street	9
Emmber Lane	5
East Cherry Street	3
Total Bridge Openings for 2017	23,244



Movable Bridge Openings

City is required to open for commercial boats rated for 50 or more passengers per Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Subchapter J, § 117.1093, paragraph a.

○ *The draws of each bridge listed in this section shall open as soon as possible for the passage of public vessels of the United States, vessels carrying United States mail, vessels licensed to carry 50 or more passengers when on their regular routes, and fireboats of the City of Milwaukee.*



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The draws of all bridges across the Milwaukee River shall open on signal if at least two hours notice is given; except that, from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. , the draws need not be opened.

- *The exceptions are Broadway, Water and Michigan do not require a two hour notice*



Movable Bridge Openings

Major Commercial Boat Owners (50 or more passengers)

Milwaukee Boat Line

Dock: West side of the river, south of Michigan

Boats: Vista King, Voyager

Edelweiss/ Milwaukee River Cruise Lines

Docks: South of Highland Avenue, North of Wells Street (Pier 106)

Boats: Edelweiss, Edelweiss 2, Harbor Lady, Miss Wisconsin, Spirit of the Lake



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Other Commercial Boat Owners (less than 50 passengers)

Riverwalk Boat Tours and Rentals

Dock: Pere Marquette Park

Boats: pontoon boats – Milwaukee Maiden, Brew City Queen

Milwaukee Paddle Tavern

Dock: The Harp Irish Pub, south of Juneau Avenue

Boats: owns four paddle boats



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What has been done in 2017 to Improve Operations:

- **Bells:**
 - *Bells no longer ring throughout bridge opening.*
 - *Bells turn off after traffic gates are down.*
- **Limiting openings:**
 - *Bridge Operators instructed to give traffic either five minutes or three green light cycles to allow traffic to clear before performing another bridge opening.*
 - *Stage openings to let several boats through at one opening.*
 - *Take into account vehicular and pedestrian traffic prior to bridge opening.*



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What we are doing for 2018:

•Wisconsin Avenue Bridge:

- *Changing controls to allow two gates to be operated simultaneously (currently they can only be operated one at a time). Anticipated time savings of 45 seconds.*
- *Modifying the hydraulics and pump speed to reduce total operating time by 40 seconds.*

• Wells Street Bridge is under rehabilitation.

- *Hydraulic and electrical improvements will allow faster opening times.*



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What we are doing for 2018:

- Inform commercial and recreational boat owners (passengers < 50) no bridge openings between 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. per regulations.
- Work with commercial boat owners (passengers \geq 50) to avoid bridge openings between 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 - *Generally have been accommodating but changes to schedules may be required.*
- Brief bridge operators on procedures prior to boating season.