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# Milwaukee Yacht Club

ESTABLISHED 1871

CLUBHOUSE AND ANCHORAGE / 1700 NORTH LINCOLN MEMORIAL DRIVE / MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53202  
PHONE / 414-271-4455 FAX / 414-271-6887

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12/16/2022

Jeremy Lucas  
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Dear Mr. Lucas,

It has come to our attention that Milwaukee County is considering an option of infilling the McKinley Park Flushing Channel and reducing the revetment scope by eliminating sections 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and connecting section 7 to section 1. Basically, this eliminates the flushing channel and renders the 3 cranes utilized by the Milwaukee Yacht Club (MYC) useless. It would not be hyperbole to state that filling in the McKinley Park Flushing Channel would end the run of the oldest yacht club on Lake Michigan, dating back to 1871.

The club would not be functional without crane operations, and the following services/activities would be eliminated or severely compromised:

- Youth sailing school, which is open to the public and a part of the MYC Foundation<sup>1</sup>
- non-motorized sailing fleets such as the Soling Class and associated regattas such as the Soling World Championships.
- Marquette and UW-Milwaukee sailing teams
- Veterans sailing program
- Winter storage – a key component of MYC income
- Boatyard services for repair and maintenance
- Dockage along the flushing channel wall – another source of income
- Disruption of new floating dock plans which tie into the seawall with a 40' gangway
- Safe access for members who paddleboard, kayak, or use other boat rental options – as well as all members of the community who access the channel
- The flushing channel also serves as a popular fishing spot for all members of the community

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<sup>1</sup> Milwaukee Yacht Club Foundation, Inc. : “Sponsor and support Junior Sailing, Adult Sailing, Safety at sea, Conservation, Use of Lake Michigan Water, and other topics applicable to both sailboats and power boats”.



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There is no practical way to move all these assets, services, and activities eastward for staging with an infilled flushing channel. There is not enough space, and the financial lifeblood of the club, the actual docks, would be greatly infringed upon. Such a reconfiguration would be a logistical nightmare at best, if not an impossibility. There will also be a major cost to the club for a security fence that will have to be erected since filling in the flushing will create access from the park to the south.

As the MYC plans for the future, great attention has been given to the Public Trust Doctrine and a plan such as infilling the flushing channel runs counterintuitive to public access to the water and shore. From our experience in dealing with the regulatory authorities (e.g., USACE) and advisory boards (e.g., LDAC), it is doubtful that “infilling” would be given serious consideration.

Infilling the flushing channel would compromise both public and member on-water experiences, and it is unlikely that MYC could attract the membership necessary to support the future of the club; therefore, the club and the board strongly oppose infilling the channel as a viable alternative to actually fixing the channel.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter!

Milwaukee Yacht Club, Board of Directors