

Bayview Park swim site launch marks a key milestone in the mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again

As the weather starts to warm up, from this weekend Sydney's Inner West residents will have a new swim site on the Parramatta River where they can cool off.

Bayview Park in Concord will open to the public on Sunday, 13 November. To celebrate the launch, an exciting community celebration is being held from 10am that includes a Welcome to Country, live music and roving entertainment, and a free barbecue. Weather permitting, bring your swimmers along to go for a dip, try kayaking or take part in the fun lilo races.

The upgraded swim site features a new netted swim enclosure and outdoor shower as well as improved access to the foreshore.

The original baths at Bayview Park were last open for swimming more than 50 years ago – closing in 1969 due to poor water quality. Sydney Water has worked closely with the City of Canada Bay to conduct water quality and sediment testing at Bayview Park through their RiverWatch™ monitoring program. Data collected over the last few years indicates that the site is once again safe for swimming.

Swimmers will be able to check the daily water quality forecast for Bayview Park on both the Parramatta River Catchment Group's (PRCG) [Our Living River](#) and [Sydney Water](#) websites.

The reintroduction of swimming at the site is the culmination of years of research and planning by the PRCG to improve the health of the Parramatta River. In 2018 the PRCG launched a ten-step masterplan to address different aspects of ecological and waterway health, in areas such as stormwater management, litter prevention, water sensitive urban design, and land-use planning.

PRCG Chair, Councillor Mark Drury, said that the launch of the Bayview Park swim site is a significant milestone in the mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again.

"We're creating a world-class river for Sydney with clean and safe water that supports places for fun and recreation, thriving ecosystems for plants and animals, and a more liveable and sustainable city for future generations to come," Cr Drury said.

Sydney Water Integrated Water Cycle Manager, Phillip Birtles, said that the long-term goal is to bring swimming back to some of the most unique swimming spots across Greater Sydney.

"Our main focus is to monitor and ensure that the water quality is at its best, so we can help provide the community with local places to relax and enjoy without having to travel too far," Mr Birtles said.

City of Canada Bay Mayor, Angelo Tsirekas, said that the completion of the project reflects the considerable progress that has been made in recent years to improve the water quality of the river.

"After years of hard work, I'm thrilled we're finally able to see visitors safely swimming at Bayview Park again for the first time since the 1960s," Mayor Tsirekas said.

Three more sites are planned to open on the Parramatta River in the next couple of years: Bedlam Bay (Gladesville), McIlwaine Park (Rhodes), and Putney Park (Putney).

Further enhancements planned for Bayview Park in 2023 include accessible parking, picnic facilities and landscaping. The upgrades are the result of \$700,000 in funding from the NSW Government's 'Places to Swim' Program.

On Friday, 11 November at 9:00am, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment will officially open the Bayview Park swim site.

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About the PRCG

The PRCG is an alliance of local and state government agencies and community groups that are working together to improve health of the Parramatta River and its tributaries. Members include: Blacktown City Council, Burwood Council, City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council, City of Canada Bay Council, City of Parramatta Council, City of Ryde Council, Cumberland Council, Hunter's Hill Council, Inner West Council, Strathfield Municipal Council, Department of Planning and Environment, Environment Protection Authority and Sydney Water. For more information go to: www.ourlivingriver.com.au.

Note to editors:

Images, interviews, and other media opportunities can be arranged upon request.

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