

# Bayview Park Swim Site

We're bringing back a new, safe swim site so you can cool off in safety!

+ Follow

## Community Consultation Report

Consultation period 31 August – 25 September 2020

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### Overview

Bayview Park Concord is a foreshore park that overlooks the Parramatta River. Loved by locals, the park includes a children’s playground, wharf and boat ramp facilities. Council is now planning to re-establish a swimming site at Bayview Park after the previous swim site was closed in 1969. In partnership with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) and Sydney Water, we are working to make Parramatta River swimmable again, and this swim site will enable our community to enjoy and experience swimming in a safe environment. A swimming safety net will allow people to swim in a safe environment. We are also planning to install an outdoor shower.

### Parramatta River Catchment Group

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) was formed as an alliance of councils, government agencies and community groups working together to transform the Parramatta River and its tributaries into living waterways. Its mission is to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

To meet its mission the PRCG has developed a Master Plan. Bayview Park was listed as one of three new swim sites to be established by 2025 in the plan.

As part of the master plan development, initial water and sediment quality testing was undertaken. This testing showed that water quality at Bayview Park has improved and that re-establishment of a swim site at Bayview Park is now a possibility.

## Consultation Methods & Promotion

### Promotions

- Direct notification letters to 1000 residences in Concord
- Promoted in LGA wide print newsletter to 36,000 households
- Video tutorial with Council, PRCG and Sydney Water
- Signage placed at Bayview Park
- Promotion via Council's social media channels, including boosted post, reaching over 133,000
- Email notification to regular park and wharf users
- Email notification to relevant Collaborate database (1291 recipients).



### Media coverage

Council's media and communications team secured significant media coverage, resulting in articles and segments in the following publications (clippings available in appendix):

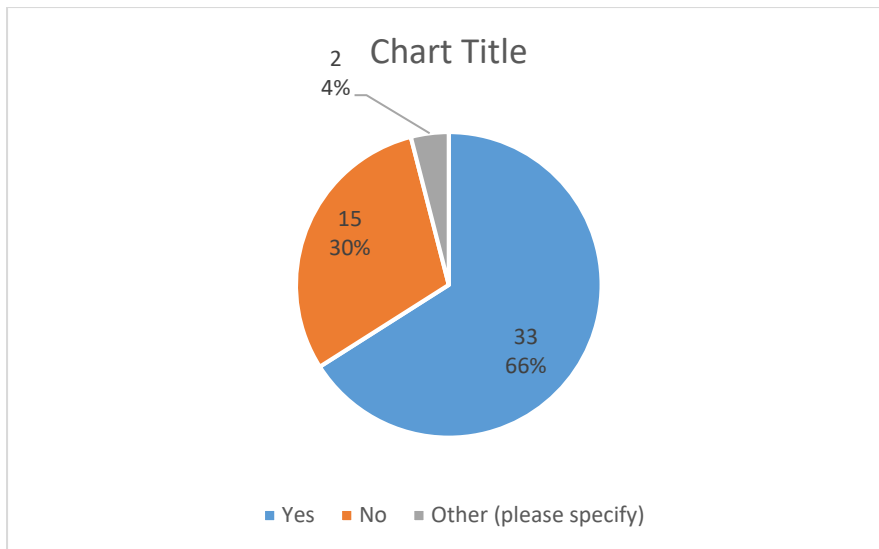
- Sydney Morning Herald (print and online)
- The Daily Telegraph
- Channel 7 News
- Broadsheet
- Concrete Playground
- 702 ABC Sydney
- 2GB Radio

### Methods

- On site meetings upon request with residents and organisations
- Evening community virtual forum via Microsoft Teams
- Video tutorial with Council, PRCG and Sydney Water
- Online engagement survey at Collaborate Canada Bay
- Direct email and phone number provided

## Results summary

- Total submissions received: 50
- Collaborate survey: 38
- Emails & calls: 12
  - Please note that 1 of these objection submissions represents the Pelican Point Community Association. How many individuals this submission represents was not provided.
  - Another was submitted on behalf of Strata 46633 representing 2 buildings of 28 apartments in Pelican Point.
  - Additionally, a second objection letter was delivered by the Strata manager of Phillip's Landing Community Association at 247 Burwood Road Concord (DP 270051).

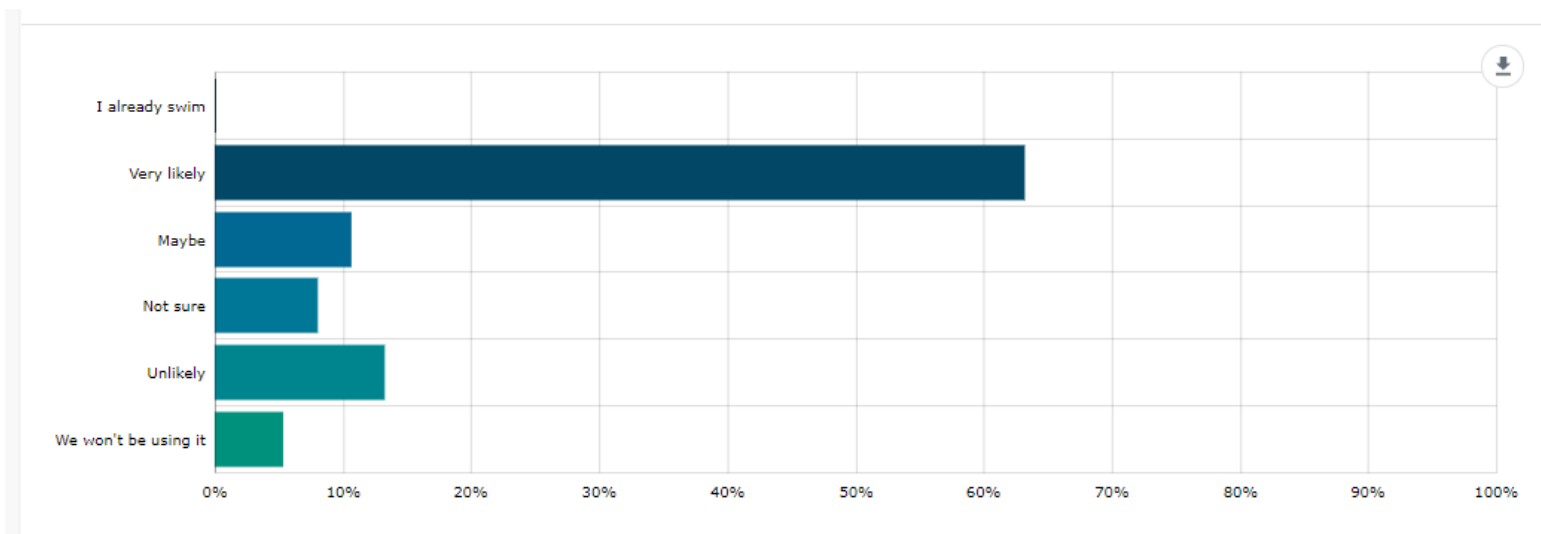


**Other answers provided:**

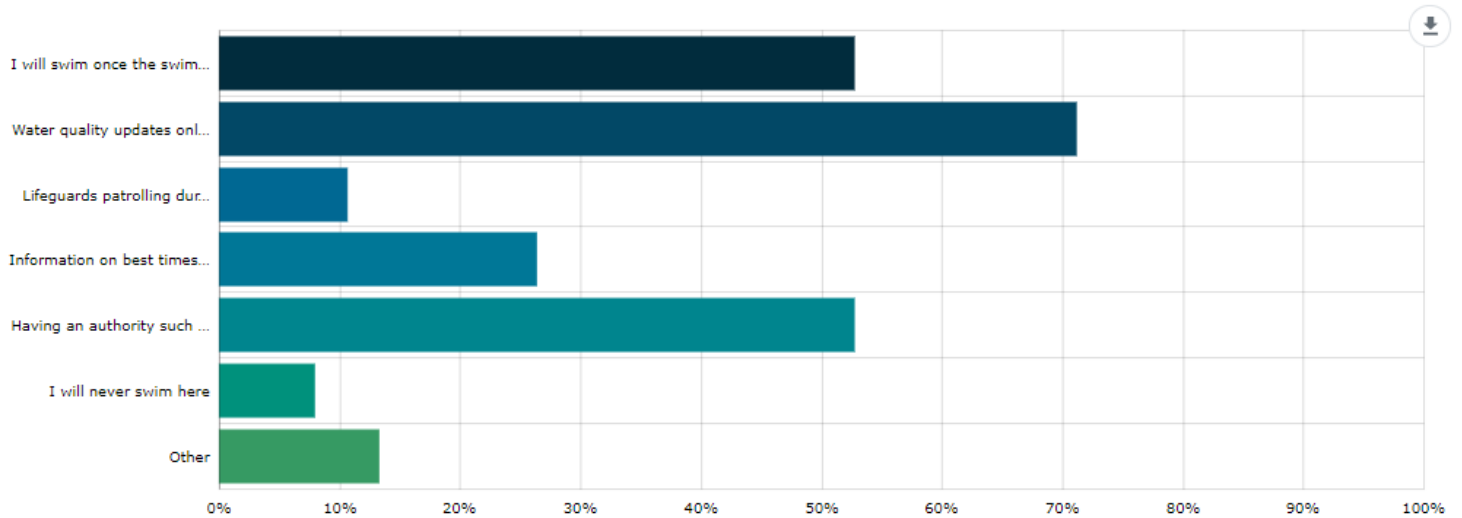
1. I'd like to know more about the water quality and safety of the sand!
2. Only if parking is considered and more is made available

**Collaborate feedback**

**How likely are you and your family to swim at Bayview Park once the safety net and shower are installed?**



### What would encourage you to swim? (Select up to 3)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
I will swim once the swimming safety net and outdoor shower are installed	52.63%	20
Water quality updates online	71.05%	27
Lifeguards patrolling during peak periods	10.53%	4
Information on best times to swim	26.32%	10
Having an authority such as the state government confirm it is safe to swim	52.63%	20
I will never swim here	7.89%	3
Other	13.16%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>38</b>

## What suggestions do you have for the project?



Tag	Percent	Count
water monitoring	31.6%	12
parking	26.3%	10
cafe	15.8%	6
extra sand	10.5%	4
improved amenities needed	10.5%	4
change rooms and showers	7.9%	3
cycling paths	2.6%	1
ferry services	2.6%	1
trees	2.6%	1
upkeep of park	2.6%	1
accessible	2.6%	1
not deep enough	2.6%	1
pollution	2.6%	1
security and safety	2.6%	1
seating	2.6%	1

### Feature contributions to this question

hopefully more sand is brought in,to make it more of a beach.and is not neglected like cabarita beach.i would like to swim there more often,however very uncomfortable with lack of sand,too many rocks and shell debris,make it hard to enter water and walk in water.  
Contribution 7 of 7 | 14 September, 2020

Improved toilets (automatic opening during specified hours) with change tables for children and adults  
Informational boards about the history of swimming here and the importance of looking after the river  
Contribution 6 of 7 | 12 September, 2020

You need to consider the impact on traffic and parking with the additional visitors this will attract.  
There is already not enough parking facilities.

I would need to see that Sydney Water agrees it's safe before I swam there

Contribution 4 of 7 | 12 September, 2020

I regularly use the boat ramp at Bayview Park as recently as today (parking using my resident parks permit). While the facilities are generally well maintained there are several issues with this proposal. 1. A walking/cycling track crosses through the trailer reversing zone. Installing a swimming pool will attract more children to an area where vehicles with trailers are trying to reverse and manoeuvre (down the ramp and into parking bays). There needs to be adequate separation of these activities to ensure people are not injured 2. Cars without trailers regularly occupy all the trailer parking spaces. The addition of more facilities without adding more car parking will make the situation worse during peak periods. 3. I have indicated in the survey that I would not swim here. I used to live nearby and walked around this bay daily. I have seen raw sewage leaking into the bay, pollution being released from the Bushels factory, golf course spraying herbicides around the waters edge, dead animals. I often swim in the harbour and at our council swimming pools but would never swim at this location.

Contribution 3 of 7 | 1 September, 2020

1. Allocated lap section 2. Decent swim length, i.e. 50 metres

Contribution 2 of 7 | 1 September, 2020

An area suitable for toddlers and small children

Contribution 1 of 7 | 31 August, 2020

## How else would you improve Bayview Park?



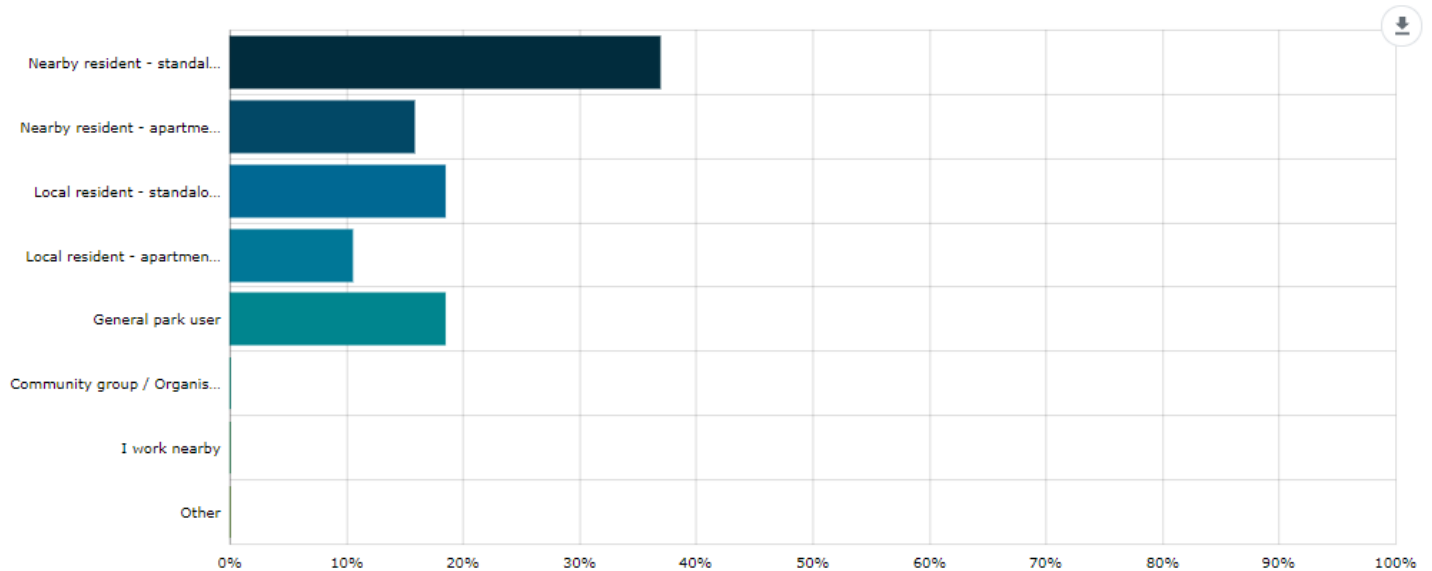
Tag	Percent	Count
improved amenities needed	36%	9
upkeep of park	24%	6
water quality	20%	5
parking	20%	5
ferry services	16%	4
cafe	16%	4
trees	12%	3
security and safety	8%	2

## Who participated (via Collaborate)

7

What is your relationship to Bayview Park? Required

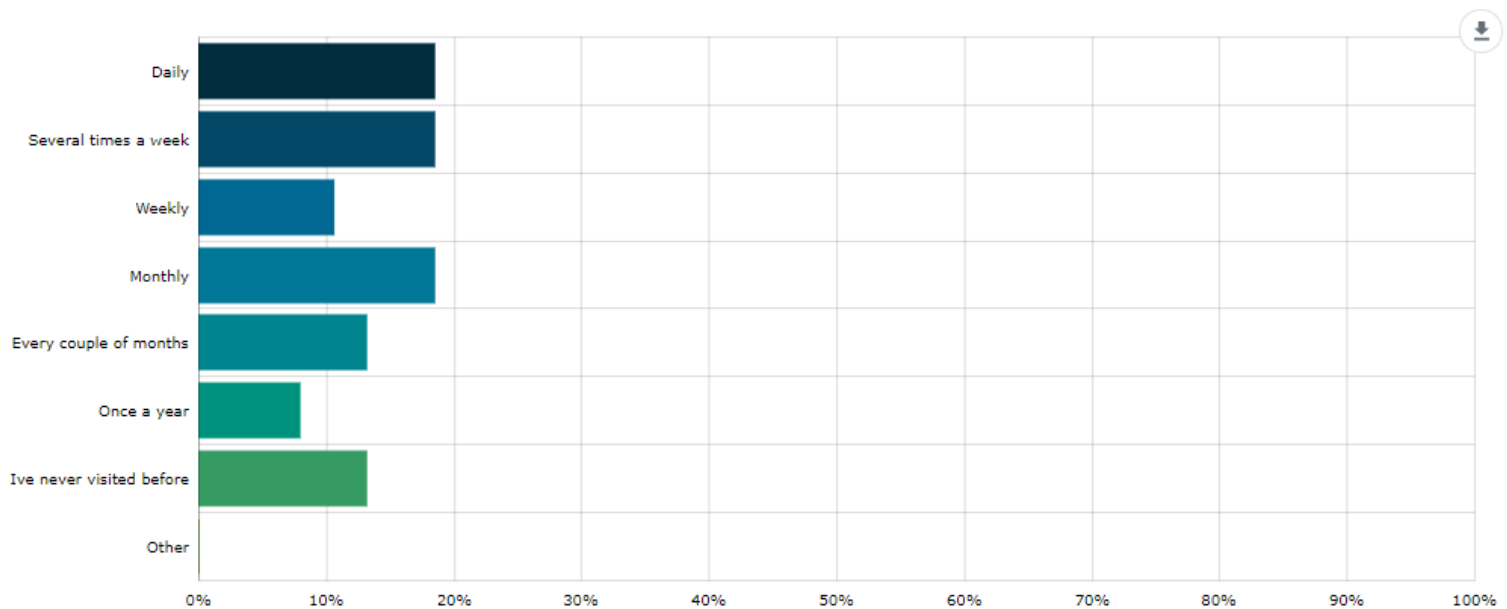
Dropdown | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 38 (100%)



5

How often do you visit Bayview Park, Concord? Required

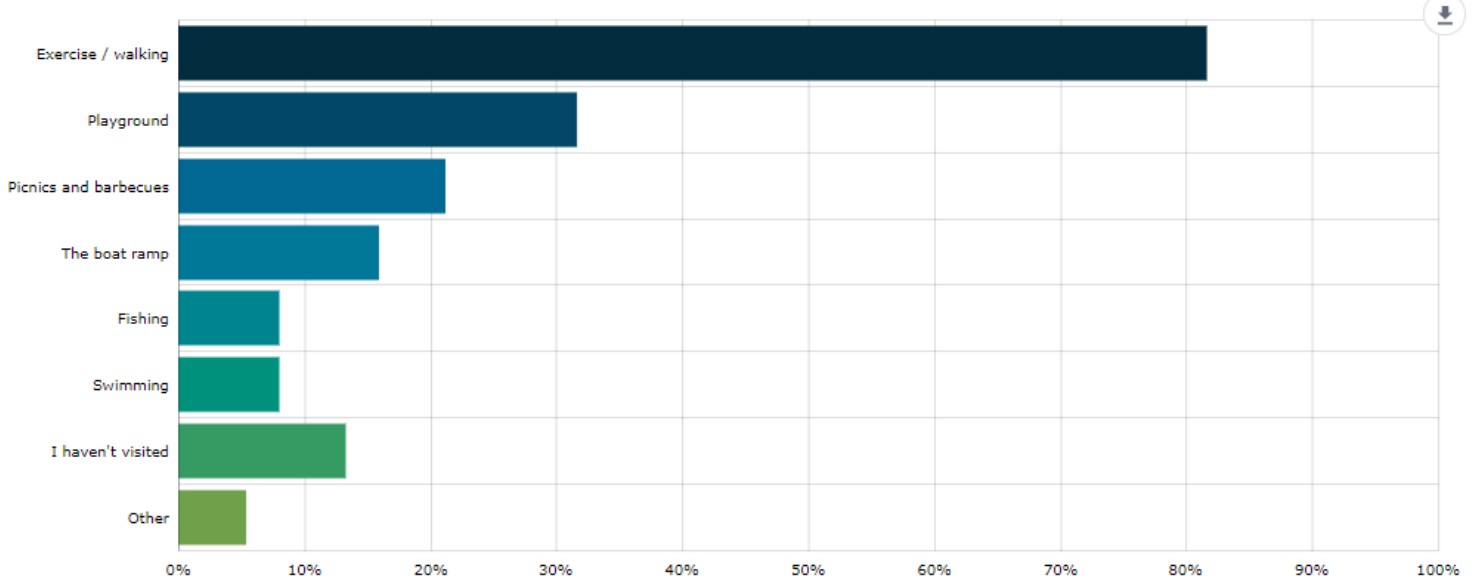
Dropdown | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 38 (100%)



6

**Why do you visit Bayview Park? Required**

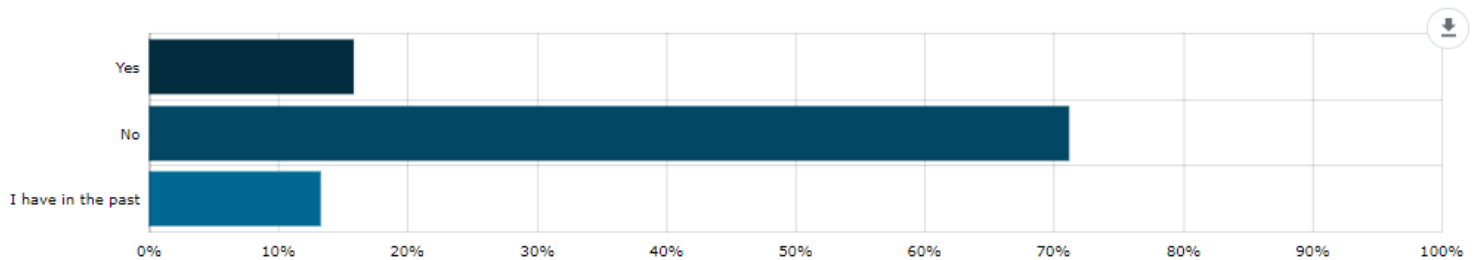
Multiple Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 38 (100%)



11

**Do you already swim in the Parramatta River at another swim site? Required**

Dropdown | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 38 (100%)

**Beautiful Bayview memories**

Not really just walking past but I believe the new swim baths will create beautiful memories for families and for all residents

Contribution 5 of 5 | 23 September, 2020

Being able to take my kids to play in the small stretch of sand even on a weeknight as we are local residents. The sand and water are a great calming space for kids and parents alike. Well done Canada bay council for taking the initiative to develop thi

Contribution 4 of 5 | 21 September, 2020

Kids love building sand castles on the beach and being ninja warriors in the playground

Contribution 3 of 5 | 12 September, 2020

Having a picnic with the family at sunset at the park and watch the kids play in the playground and in the sand/water.

Contribution 2 of 5 | 7 September, 2020



## Opposition

**8 objection emails were submitted, as well as 7 Collaborate objections to the project.**

*Please note that all objections have been submitted by nearby residents, and some submissions represent a group of individuals.*

Summary of concerns:

- Lack of consultation with residents regarding whether they want a swimming enclosure at all
- Parking concerns regarding weekend congestion from “out of area visitors”, as well as cars parking in trailer bays without trailers
  - Requests to assess parking pressure in Burwood Road at all times outside of business hours.
  - “IF Council was prepared to assign over more of the lesser-used areas of the Park to parking spaces, the swimming facility could possibly be considered, but not otherwise.”
  - No supervision of the No Parking area in the roundabout which leads to problems for buses and also leads to late night use of the park
- Toilets unable to manage weekend periods currently, will need improvements due to expected surge in usage
- No plans for additional amenities including change rooms
- Lack of water depth to allow for regular swimming
- Security concerns during both daylight hours and late at night
- Pollution in the water, as well as likelihood of this being stirred up by additional activity
  - Feedback regarding raw sewage leaking into the bay, pollution being released from the Bushels factory, golf course spraying herbicides around the water’s edge, dead animals.
- Dog owners likely to let their dogs off-leash to use the beach

## Conclusion

There is majority support for the project, however nearby residents have expressed concern with the strain the projected increase in usage of the park will have on parking and amenities. There is reason for Council to consider monitoring this and developing a management plan for Bayview Park once project is complete as well as considering upgrades that may be needed to the park’s amenities.

## Appendix:

*Materials*

Site Poster



Community consultation:  
31 August – 25 September 2020

Works: January – April 2021

Visit: [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au)  
for more info and to sign up for updates

## OUR OPEN RIVER

### Bayview Park swim site

With works expected to be completed by April 2021, facilities will include:

- A swimming safety net
- Outdoor shower

Tell us what you think!



"We're making a safe place for you to splash around at Bayview Park. Water you waiting for?!"  
*Bella the bar-tailed Godwit*



For more information and to contribute, go to [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/bayview](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/bayview)  
☎ 9911 6555 ✉ Locked bag 1470 Drummoyne NSW 2047 ✉ [collaborate@canadabay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:collaborate@canadabay.nsw.gov.au)

Artist's impressions of the Bayview Park swim site

Postcard





**Mayor Angelo Tsirekas,  
City of Canada Bay**

I am delighted to announce that we will be re-establishing a swim site at Bayview Park. As some of you may remember, the original swim site was closed in 1969 and we are excited to be able to bring it back in April 2021.

The swim site will provide an opportunity for our community to enjoy swimming along our foreshore. I would like to reassure you that we have been working closely with the Parramatta River Catchment Group and Sydney Water to ensure water quality is optimal.

Facilities will include a swimming safety net and an outdoor shower to create an enjoyable and safe experience for visitors.

I invite you to provide feedback on the project and help us build a beautiful swim site for the whole community to enjoy.



Artist's impression of the  
Bayview Park swim site



Artist's impression of the  
Bayview Park swim site

### How to contribute:



Online from  
31 August – 25 September.



Attend a virtual drop-in with  
the project team on  
Wednesday, 16 September.  
Register at  
[collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au)



The project team is available  
for small group meetings  
on-site (adhering to COVID-19  
precautions). Email  
[collaborate@canadabay.nsw.gov.au](mailto:collaborate@canadabay.nsw.gov.au)

For more information and to contribute, go to [collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/bayview](https://collaborate.canadabay.nsw.gov.au/bayview)

☎ 9911 6555 ☒ Locked Bag 1470, Drummoyne NSW 2047

## Media

Sydney Morning Herald

### Swimming bays and riverbanks

Angus Thompson  
Local affairs

A suburban council is planning to transform the banks of a sporting oval into a swimming spot as part of a push to take back the Parramatta River for recreation.

Hunters Hill Council's bid to open Bedlam Bay, west of the Gladstone Bridge, to local swimmers follows the release of a concept design for another swimming area to the south of the river, at Bayview Park in Concord, as part of an initiative being propelled by the City of Canada Bay.

The plans come as Sydneysiders increasingly turn to the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic and authorities keep an anxious watch over crowd numbers at beaches as the weather heats up.

"There are fantastic spots for the community to cool off in the warmer months, and a great alternative to other overcrowded swimming spots in Sydney," Canada Bay mayor Angelo Tsirekas said.

A Hunters Hill Council spokesman said that since the pandemic the council had been working on ways to get people using the existing community spaces.

"Bedlam Bay is an amazing area that is under-utilised and under-activated. This hidden gem is a natural discovery," the spokesman said.

Hunters Hill Council is working with the Parramatta River Catchment Group and Sydney Water on inquiries regarding the suitability, feasibility and desirability of Bedlam Bay as a swimming site.

The spokesman said, depending on a number of community and environmental factors, the site could be active by summer 2021-22.

Following a period of community consultation, construction of the artificial swimming area in Concord is set to begin in January, more than 40 years after the original Bedlam Bay closed in 1980.

It was one of more than 50 swimming bays that cropped up along the river around the early 1900s, but most closed by the 1960s due to water pollution caused by sewage and industrial run-off.

"I am delighted we are able to



Angus Thompson  
takes a look of  
Bedlam Bay, west of  
the Gladstone  
Bridge, to local  
swimmers.

reopen a site closed so long that some of our residents may remember from their youth," Cr Tsirekas said. Both sites are part of a broader plan by the catchment group to create around 100 swimming sites along the river, including at McWhirter Park in Gladstone and Putney Park in Putney, to add to those that exist, such as Davis Power Bay, California Beach and Chowbey Bay.

The group's goal is to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

A Sydney Water spokesman said the proposed sites met the water quality guidelines for swimming for "the vast majority of the time".

But the community should follow the advice of water quality service beachwatch, which says swimming in the harbour should be avoided for up to three days following rainfall or for as long as stormwater is present, the spokesman said.

NATIONAL NEWS CITY LIFE

### 'Hidden gem': new swimming spots marked for Parramatta River

By Angus Thompson  
September 12, 2020 - 12:02am



5  
View all comments

A suburban council is planning to transform the banks of a sporting oval into a swimming spot as part of a growing push to take back the Parramatta River for recreation.

Hunters Hill Council's bid to open Bedlam Bay, west of the Gladstone Bridge, to local swimmers follows the release of a concept design for another swimming area to the south of the river, at Bayview Park in Concord, as part of an initiative being propelled by the City of Canada Bay.



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The plans come as Sydneysiders increasingly turn to the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic and authorities keep an anxious watch over crowd numbers at beaches as the weather heats up.

"There are fantastic spots for the community to cool off in the warmer months, and a great alternative to other overcrowded swimming spots in Sydney," Canada Bay mayor Angelo Tsirekas said.



## New 'beach' for western Sydney

A HISTORIC swim spot along the Parramatta River that has been closed since 1969 will reopen next year.

Canada Bay Council said Bayview Park in Concord will be western Sydney's new swimming spot by April 2021, saving inner west residents a drive to the beach.

Construction on the \$300,000 project will commence in January 2021 following community consultation, which is currently underway. "I am delighted we are able to reopen a much-loved swim site that some of our residents may remember from their youth," Mayor Angelo Tsionas said.

Bayview Park had been a popular swim site from as early as the 1830s. Since then, local councils including the Canada Bay have been working with the Parramatta River Catchment Group and Sydney Water to help remediate and revitalise the river.

Sydney Water has been testing the water quality at Bayview Park as part of their Riverwatch program, with the data collected over the past 12 months indicating the site is safe for swimming.

The site will continue to be monitored under the program to ensure water quality remains optimal.

The site will continue to be monitored under the program to ensure water quality remains optimal.

PHOTOGRAPH BY

## Channel 7 news



## Broadsheet Sydney

SYDNEY

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THE SHOP

### A Historic Inner-West Swimming Spot Is Reopening for the First Time in More Than 50 Years

Bayview Park was used for swimming until pollution in the Parramatta River forced it to close in 1969.

1/3 Photography: Courtesy of Canada Bay Council

Published on 17 September 2020 by CHELSEA TRIGGS

SHARE

Residents of the inner west will be able to add another natural swimming spot to their list from next year, with a historic swimming site at Concord slated to reopen to the public. The Bayview Park swimming area on the Parramatta River is thought to have been in use since at least the 1830s. It closed in 1969 due to water pollution, but works will begin in January 2021 to make it safe for swimming once again.

A swimming safety net and outdoor shower will be installed as part of the \$300,000 project, initiated after tests by Sydney Water over the past 12 months showed the water is clean enough to swim in.

"We are working with the community to create an open river where residents and visitors alike can swim along our foreshore and enjoy Sydney's most iconic waterway for the first time in generations," Canada Bay Mayor Angelo Tsionas said in a statement.

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CITY FILE

Sydney's New AI Projects

## Concrete Playground

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TRAVEL & LEISURE

### A New Swimming Spot Is Slated to Open Along the Parramatta River in 2021

More than 50 years after the original Bayview Baths closed, a new riverside swimming spot is set to open in the inner west.

By Richard Campbell

Updated 6 days ago

142 Shares

[Subscriptions](#)

The Bayview Baths on the Parramatta River were closed way back in 1969, then completely demolished in 1995. But, the City of Canada Bay Council has plans to open a new swimming spot in that place next year.

One of several pools set to open along the Sydney River in the next few years, the Bayview Park swim site in the inner west suburb of Concord is on track to welcome the public swimmers wearing public by April 2021.

The Council's plan involves fully redeveloping the swimming area, making it a safe environment with clean waters (with ongoing water quality reporting), a netball area that set apart from the existing city and an outdoor shower to boot.

The park is located right along the Parramatta River, in between Harmony Point and the dog friendly river and Chicken Bay. The park's existing facilities include a sandy beach, plus covered picnic tables, barbecues and toilets.



## Social

### Facebook

City of Canada Bay

September 12

We're re-establishing a swim site at Bayview Park and want your feedback! That's right, after 52 years the beloved swim spot will reopen in April 2021 🌊🏊

Facilities will include a swimming safety net and an outdoor shower. To view the plans and provide feedback head to [bit.ly/bayviewswim](http://bit.ly/bayviewswim) before 25 September.

27,504 People Reached

8,670 Engagements

Boost Again

Boosted on Sep 12, 2020 By Steph Rochelle

Completed

People Reached 16.2K

Post Engagement 2.0K

View Results

👍👎🗨️ 374

88 Comments 21 Shares

City of Canada Bay

September 17

It's a hot one out there today! ☀️👓

Earlier this week Mayor Angelo Tsirekas spoke to Robbie Buck and Wendy Harmer about our exciting new swim site coming to Bayview Park. Read more below 📖

ABC Sydney

September 18

🌊🏊 A NEW SWIM SPOT ON THE PARRAMATTA RIVER 🌊🏊

Construction of a swimming location at Bayview Park in Concord is set to kick off in January next year.

It's... See More

3,702 People Reached

685 Engagements

👍👎🗨️ Mike Roberts, Jo Chen and 41 others

14 Comments 4 Shares

**City of Canada Bay** September 21 · 🌐

Do you remember swimming at Bayview Park when you were a kid? We have great news! We'll be reopening the swim site in April 2021 🥳🥳

The new facilities will include an outdoor shower and swimming safety net. To view the plans and provide feedback head to [bit.ly/bayviewswim](https://bit.ly/bayviewswim) by 25 September.




6,832 People Reached      902 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️🔥 54      9 Comments 6 Shares


👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share    🌐

**City of Canada Bay** September 23 at 5:00 PM · 🌐

Have you heard we're re-establishing a swim site at Bayview Park? 🥳

Check out this handy video from our project team explaining our exciting project, due to be complete in April 2021.

Facilities will include a swimming safety net and an outdoor shower. To view the plans and provide feedback head to [bit.ly/bayviewswim](https://bit.ly/bayviewswim) before 25 September.



2,538 People Reached      191 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️🔥 21      3 Comments 2 Shares

**City of Canada Bay** September 25 · 🌐

Have you heard the news? After its closure over 50 years ago, we plan to reopen our historic swim site at Bayview Park in April next year 🥳🥳

Today's your last chance to have your say on the plans so head to [bit.ly/bayviewswim](https://bit.ly/bayviewswim) to watch the project tutorial, see the artist's impressions, and read our comprehensive FAQs.




3,961 People Reached      444 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️🔥 Mike Roberts, Cecile Owen and 56 others      10 Comments 3 Shares

**City of Canada Bay** 17 September at 10:55 · 🌐

We're re-establishing a swim site at Bayview Park in Concord! 🥳🥳

Facilities will include a swimming safety net and an outdoor shower. Click the link below to view the plans and provide feedback head to before 25 September.



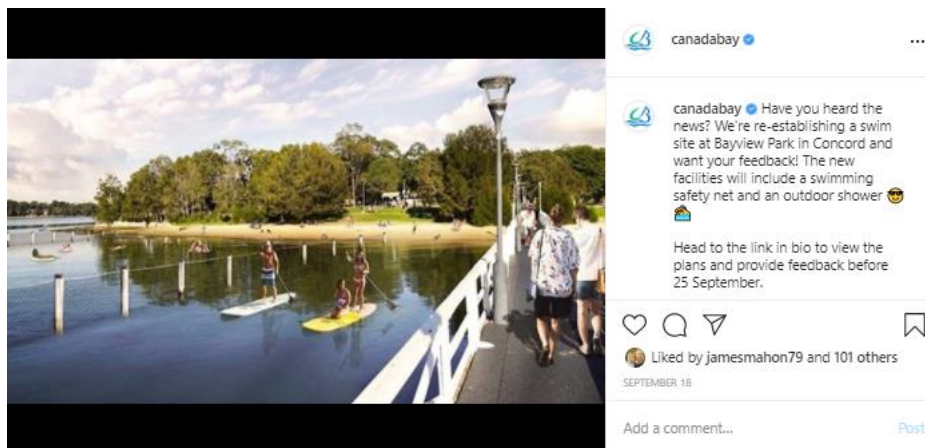
[COLLABORATE.CANADABAY.NSW.GOV.AU](https://COLLABORATE.CANADABAY.NSW.GOV.AU)

**Give your feedback!** Bayview Park in Concord will reopen as a swim site in April 2021. [Learn More](#)

👍❤️🔥 169      77 comments 12 shares



## Instagram



## Twitter



**City of Canada Bay** @CanadaBay · Sep 14

We have some exciting news! After 52 years we plan to re-establish a swim site at Bayview Park in Concord 🏊‍♀️  
We've been working with @ourlivingriver and @sydneywater to make sure it's safe for our community. Visit [bit.ly/bayviewswim](https://bit.ly/bayviewswim) to give feedback.

