

Friday 19 October 2018

## **PUTNEY PARK EARMARKED TO BECOME PUBLIC SWIMMING SITE BY 2025**

Putney Park could become a new designated swimming site by 2025 under ambitious plans to make the Parramatta River swimmable once again.

The goal to make Putney Park a swimming site is outlined in the Parramatta River Masterplan that was released this week by the Parramatta River Catchment Group, of which the City of Ryde is a member.

The masterplan sets out agreed actions in an attempt to make the Parramatta River a world-class, swimmable river through better monitoring of the river, reducing stormwater run-off, improving overflows and involving the community more in maintaining the health of the river. Extensive testing and studies on contaminants will also be undertaken to confirm suitability for swimming.

Putney Park is one of three locations along Parramatta River earmarked to have swimming sites by 2025, with the other two being McIlwaine Park in Rhodes East and Bayview Park in Concord. Nine other sites are also under consideration as swimming sites later in the future, including Meadowbank and Kissing Point Park.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said he was proud to lead a Council that will unlock the river for use by everyone.

“I believe that the waterfront should be accessible by everybody, not just those who are fortunate enough to live on it. That’s why Council is using ratepayer funds to upgrade Putney Park with the vision to make the river swimmable by 2025,” Cllr Laxale said.

“To have the City of Ryde as one of only three proposed launch sites gives us great confidence to continue our custodianship of the Parramatta River.”

City of Ryde Councillor and Parramatta River Catchment Group Vice Chair, Cllr Penny Pedersen, said residents have voiced a wish to have swimming sites available in the Parramatta River.

“A recent survey of more than 1,100 residents in the Parramatta River Catchment area found two-thirds are interested in swimming in a designated area of the Parramatta River,” Cllr Pedersen said.

“For that to happen we need the Parramatta River to be clean and safe and that is exactly what this masterplan sets out to achieve.

“The Parramatta River Catchment Group is a benchmark collaboration of government agencies, councils and community organisations and is one of the best initiatives I’ve ever been part of.”

[The Parramatta River Masterplan can be viewed here.](#)

---

Media Contact: Michael East, City of Ryde Communications  
p ● 9952 8083 m ● 0466 091 059 e ● meast@ryde.nsw.gov.au