

Urban Plunge

Urban Plunge™ can fast track the delivery of more swimming and recreation opportunities across Greater Sydney. Local Councils looking to deliver safe access to their nearby waterways often face a long, complex process. Urban Plunge™ has the tools and expertise to cut red tape and streamline the delivery of safe waterway recreation options across the fast-growing Sydney area.

How Sydney Water can help

Identifying opportunities and navigating the approvals pathway

Opening a new swim site is complex, and no two sites are the same. Sydney Water can help identify key constraints and appropriate solutions to enable safe aquatic recreation at your nominated site.

Our established relationships with key decision makers will help navigate approvals pathways and ensure that risks have been addressed, giving confidence to open new site locations. Where water quality issues are identified, Sydney Water may also be able to assist in examining the conditions across the wider catchment.

We provide complimentary support for the preparation of grant applications that enable activation of new or enhancement of existing swimming and aquatic recreation sites.



Figure 1; Lab services team sampling at Lake Parramatta

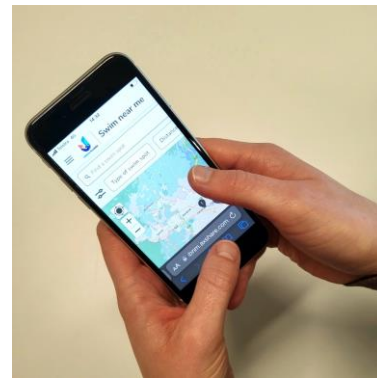
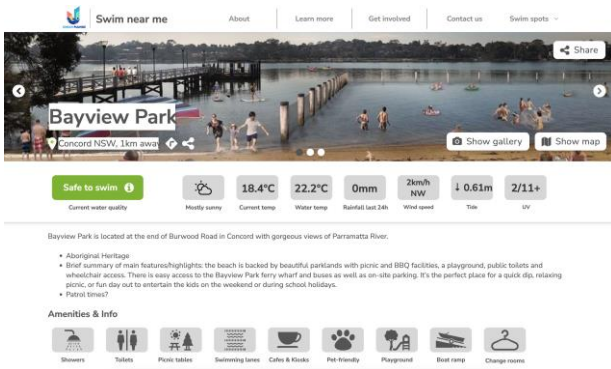
RiverWatch™

RiverWatch™ is Sydney Water's recreational water-quality monitoring and reporting program, developed to support the opening and operation of swim sites. We can provide in-house sampling, analysis and reporting of water-quality data and help councils select a package of water-quality monitoring based on their specific site.

Sydney Water has partnered with the University of NSW to develop a predictive water-quality model to enable daily forecasting of water quality based on local conditions. The model can be adapted to new swimming sites as they come online.

We are also trialing new in-situ, real-time water-quality monitoring technologies to speed up initial sample collection and simplify ongoing monitoring and reporting.

The RiverWatch™ service can complement or replace existing water quality monitoring carried out by council or their contractors. Sydney Water monitoring and reporting has the benefit of consistency across all sites and over time. Sydney Water's well-resourced labs are accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) and operate year-round. For more information on RiverWatch™ please visit [Making our waterways swimmable \(sydneywater.com.au\)](https://www.sydneywater.com.au/making-our-waterways-swimmable)



Website and App

As part of our RiverWatch™ monitoring service, we are launching an exciting new website to help people make an informed decision about when and where to swim.

The website is a great way to promote new and existing swimming spots. It will provide a platform for consistent reporting of recreational water quality, details of conditions at the site, activities and facilities on offer, directions to the swim site, opportunities to volunteer, educational resources and stories about what makes a site special.

There will also be opportunities to promote proposed sites and those under development.

Exchanging Best Practice

Sydney Water is keen to share best practice and lessons learned with partners through a series of site visits, webinars and workshops. We are working hard to support councils, NSW Government agencies and their partners as they consider whether to start a new project or move into the design and delivery stages with an existing project.

Urban Plunge™ Tech Summit

In November 2022, we will bring together experts from around the world to showcase and test technologies, designs and processes to help solve the challenges of opening urban swim sites. The summit aims to support our partners in making urban swimming and water recreation easier, cheaper and safer in Sydney and cities across the world. We look forward to seeing you there.

Applying for a grant?

We would love to partner with your organisation to help you have the best chance of success! The following support is available:

- Suggested approval, design, construction and operation timelines
- Costed Urban Plunge™ packages for:
 - Risk assessment and guided approval pathway process
 - Site-design optioneering (including temporary and permanent options)
 - Establishment of water-quality monitoring to meet health requirements
 - Ongoing water-quality monitoring program with public facing reporting
- Standard economic valuation metrics that can be used within a cost-benefit analysis, consistent with NSW Treasury guidance.

Sydney Water will provide letters of support for organisations partnering with us on sites.

Why work with us?

Sydney Water has been helping councils activate new swimming sites in the Parramatta River in partnership with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG). These Councils are on track to open four new swimming and in-river recreation sites starting in late 2022.

We're here to help you. Feel free to contact us at urbanplunge@sydneywater.com.au