As the weather warms up, we’re helping councils, public space managers, community and small business owners with our COVID Safe Summer Guide.

We can help keep public spaces open and accessible by working together to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please stay safe and visit the NSW Government website for the latest information on COVID-19.

People are exploring their local communities like never before and councils have a wealth of surprising alternatives when popular public places are over-crowded.

We encourage everyone to walk or cycle to new public spaces in your neighbourhood and explore, find or rediscover your New Local.

Some great examples are included here.

What’s in the New Local

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The Power of 10+ is a concept Project for Public Spaces developed to evaluate and facilitate placemaking at multiple city scales. It’s a powerful tool for generating constructive conversations to identify targeted placemaking efforts. Cities succeed or fail at the human scale—the place scale—and this scale is often overlooked. The Power of 10+ shows how paying attention to the human experience when building a city’s destinations and districts can have immediate and widespread impacts.

The idea behind this concept is places thrive when users have a range of reasons (10+) to spend time in a place that reflects their needs and preferences; for example, a public space with places to sit, playgrounds to enjoy, art to touch, music to hear, food to eat, history to experience, and people to meet. In order to be inclusive, the mix of activities must be unique to the place itself and reflective of its culture and history. It is important for those facilitating the visioning process to develop a deep understanding of the space and work with the community in creating a one-of-a-kind placemaking strategy.

Further, when cities contain at least 10 of these destinations or districts, depending on the scale, we make tangible progress towards equal distribution of public spaces. This critical mass of uses and activities often leads to improvements in public perception among both locals and tourists, as well as increased footfall and lingering behaviour—the building blocks of social resilience.

"- Project for Public Spaces, New York
Blue Mountains City Council has supported its staff and the community through the many unprecedented and unplanned challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our community showed resilience in the face of the crisis. Everyone in our community is tired. Fires have tested us. Floods have tested us. Now, we’re facing a pandemic the likes of which has not been seen for 100 years.

But we continue to find our way through this together. Council will continue to deliver the best we can to the Blue Mountains community in these trying times. We are better together, and together is how we will get through this.

Mark Greenhill OAM
Blue Mountains City Council Mayor

1/ Mount Portal Lookout

You can step back from the hustle and bustle of city living and recharge amongst ancient landscapes in the Blue Mountains. Visit the accessible Mount Portal Lookout overlooking the picturesque junction between Glenbrook Gorge and the Nepean River. If you start your day early, you’ll see the sun slowly dance across the sky, dispersing golden hues as it rises.

2/ Glenbrook Village

The quaint township of Glenbrook, set back off the highway, an appealing hideaway. On Ross Street, discover some of the finest coffee in the Blue Mountains, as well as locally sourced sweet and savoury products. Purchase specialty ingredients to create your own Blue Mountain flavours at home. An extensive array of artisanal products, made locally within the Blue Mountains, is on offer in the Glenbrook village.

3/ Govetts Leap Starscape

The Blue Mountains is a perfect place to immerse in our rich astronomical history. At Woodford, you can complete the self-guided Layers of Time tour, which explains the importance of the Blue Mountains night sky in recording the transit of Venus back in 1874. Elsewhere in the Mountains, use the Southern Cross constellation to guide your sight towards the Emu in the Sky. Govetts Leap is the perfect backdrop to gaze into the night sky away from any harsh light pollution, as the stars glimmer and gleam all night. And you can sharpen your photography skills by booking an astrophotography workshop with an experienced Blue Mountains photographer.
4/ Wentworth Falls Lake
The Wentworth Falls Lake once supplied water to the passing steam trains but today it is a thriving ecological haven. The Lake is a perfect location for picnics with family and friends, where you can watch waterbirds and forest birds fly around the lake capturing their feed for the day. Explore the lake’s foreshore, where stunning sandstone sculptures explore the Lake’s connection with nature. The Wentworth Falls Lake is a great family-friendly location offering unique pirate ship-inspired play equipment, an accessible walking track that can be used by wheelchairs, children on bikes and parents with prams, park benches and barbecues.

5/ Buttenshaw Bridge, Leura
A 14-metre long bridge, engulfed by sweeping views across the Jamison Valley and cradled by walking trails on either side that hug the sandstone cliffs, is nestled between Olympian Rock and Elysian Rock in Leur. Listen for the playful sounds of yellow tail black cockatoos soaring high above the cliff edges. In the distance is the rocky formation known as the Ruined Castle, as well as Mt Solitary. Standing on this breathtaking bridge, looking across the valley, gives a true sense of how expansive the Blue Mountains National Park is.

6/ Lawson
The many meandering bushwalks in Lawson immerse you in the beauty of the Blue Mountains and put you back in touch with nature. The Lawson township is cradled by waterfall walks on either side of the Great Western Highway, revealing ancient views and an abundance of bird life and native wildlife. The village also features the Lawson Swim Centre, Lawson Library, as well as a great skate park. View the Triangular Arch towering over the Honour Gardens as a majestic nod to men who served in the Great War 1914-1918. The shopping precinct is home to some great cafés and restaurants with a diverse range of international cuisine.

7/ Grand Canyon Circuit
The Grand Canyon is a six kilometre bushwalking circuit in picturesque Blackheath. It begins at Neates Glen, a moss-laden set of stairs zig-zagging down into the cool climate canyon and hugging the creek bed. The circuit features a sandstone tunnel, the towering stairs to Evans Lookout and phenomenal sandstone structures overhead. The Grand Canyon walk winds amongst ancient fern, tall eucalyptus trees and flourishing wildflowers; all of which attract native birdlife. This is a tranquil walk, offering sounds of bubbling water, rustling leaves, the scratching of a lyrebird and distant calls of rock warblers, pilot birds and cheeky black cockatoos.

8/ The Cultural Centre
The Cultural Centre showcases innovative, diverse, distinctive and creative cultural programs for residents and visitors to the Blue Mountains. Located in the heart of Katoomba, the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre comprises the Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, Katoomba Library and Into the Blue, an interactive exhibition exploring the history and natural landscape of the Blue Mountains. Visitors also enjoy the viewing platform with stunning panoramic vistas of Katoomba and the Jamison Valley.

9/ Katoomba Street Art Walk
The Katoomba-based Street Art Walk is a dynamic, community-driven cultural treasure of the Blue Mountains, created by Street Art Murals Australia (SAM) in partnership with the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre and University of Western Sydney. A curated process of proposals and selection delivered a range of murals and styles covering all street art disciplines. And they are temporary by nature. The Street Art Walk is free and family friendly.

10/ Megalong Valley
The Megalong Valley is a picturesque valley surrounded by the Blue Mountains' towering escarpment. This secluded valley is popular for horse riding and bushwalking along its diverse range of trails through scenic bushland. Winding down into the valley, passing through a lush cool climate treescape, it showcases the authentic country feel of the valley. Free bush camping is available at Old Ford Reserve and Blackheath Glen Reserve, however all reservations for these sites need to be emailed to GoodNeighbour@bmcc.nsw.gov.au to ensure safety during the pandemic. The Megalong Valley also features boutique vineyards to visit or stay the night.
I am extremely proud of how the City of Canada Bay has responded to the pandemic. The Bay Run, in particular, came under a lot of pressure as people from near and far looked to use it to get their daily exercise and to catch a glimpse of our beautiful harbour. We worked closely with the relevant stakeholders, especially the Office of Local Government, NSW Police and NSW Health to ensure our community were aware of and following the latest advice. Over the years we have heavily invested in the expansion and quality of our open spaces and improved access to our many kilometres of Parramatta River foreshore and it was pleasing to see so many people able to take advantage of these green public spaces.

Mayor Angelo Tsirekas
City of Canada Bay

1/ Five Senses Garden
City of Canada Bay, in partnership with Inner West Neighbour Aid, developed an inclusive ‘5 Senses Garden’ within Rhodes Park, Concord West. The Garden is designed to be a place to bring the community together; the young, the elderly, people from all walks of life, cultures and all abilities. It is a place for the entire community offering workshops, volunteering opportunities, social connections and a space for locals to grow their own produce.

2/ Dunlop Reserve and Salton Reserve
Dunlop Reserve, located behind Birkenhead Point Brand Outlet, has broad views of the Parramatta River and Cockatoo Island. The adjacent Salton Reserve provides access to the water via a sandy beach and also includes a new playground.

3/ Chiswick Baths
Chiswick Baths, a quiet, local swimming beach on Bortfield Drive, Chiswick, is a great place to enjoy a refreshing swim, or relax and enjoy the views of Parramatta River and Gladesville Bridge. Chiswick Baths is enclosed by a shark net and childproof fence and accessed via a short set of stairs. The baths are backed by a small park with a steep, grassy slope, covered picnic tables and toilets.

4/ Henry Lawson Park
This foreshore park in Abbotsford has expansive views of Hen & Chicken Bay and a playground. A foreshore walk with outdoor fitness stations links Henry Lawson Park with Halliday Park to the south and to 15 sites on the Discover Abbotsford Walking Tour.
5/ Quarantine Reserve
Quarantine Reserve in Abbotsford is a beautiful, historic park on the Parramatta River. It was once home to Sydney’s Animal Quarantine Station which housed cattle, horses, pigs and dogs. You can still explore the old buildings on the site. The reserve also hosts a significant amount of native vegetation, including Swamp-oak Forest.

6/ Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway
The Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway covers more than 800 metres from Rhodes Station to Concord Hospital and runs along the mangrove-studded shores of Brays Bay on the Parramatta River. The centrepiece is the magnificent granite walls bearing photographic images of the campaign with 22 stations or plaques along the walkway, each describing a significant place or engagement. The walkway has been planted with lush tropical vegetation simulating the conditions of The Kokoda Track.

7/ Powells Creek
Powells Creek in North Strathfield has been turned into a natural waterway with sandstone banks and native plants. The shared walking and cycling track provides easy access to explore Bicentennial Park.

8/ Queen Elizabeth Park
Queen Elizabeth Park, on Gipps Street in Concord, contains three sports playing fields in the open area and BBQs, toilets, picnic tables and a play area among the trees. The park contains a significant remnant of the endangered ecological community, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

9/ Five Dock Park
Five Dock Park has recently undergone a $500,000 transformation to create a brand new playground and outdoor exercise stations. The existing off-leash dog area was also recently expanded. These new additions complement the existing skate bowl, oval, basketball court and gardens, which makes the park a great place to visit in a central location.

10/ Wangal Reserve
Wangal Reserve is a green space worth visiting, situated close to the car ferry at Mortlake. Council is investing over $2 million dollars in park improvements with Completed works including improved beach access, new pathways, park furniture and landscaping. These works will soon be complemented with a new playground, flying fox and upgraded wharf and kayak launch.
The Georges River community is resilient and proud. Our community spirit and commitment to support each other has always been strong. However, no community is immune to the impact of COVID-19. Georges River Council, through its Economic and Social Recovery Plan, is providing our community and visitors with opportunities to safely discover our city’s hidden gems while also supporting our community to thrive during these difficult times.

Some of our biggest wins have come from an increased uptake of outdoor dining facilitated by fee exemptions, an exciting revamp of our major events program focusing on smaller scale activations for the community including food trucks, drive in cinemas and pop up ice rinks, and public domain makeovers such as public art, parklets, traffic calming and activation spaces in Hurstville and Kogarah. It’s time to discover Georges River.

Kevin Greene
Georges River Council Mayor

1/ Hurstville Museum & Gallery.
In the centre of the Hurstville CBD, the Museum & Gallery is a popular destination for thousands of local and interstate visitors each year and a vibrant hub of community activity, with regular talks, programs, special events, and dynamic exhibitions. Hurstville Museum & Gallery is dedicated to sharing the unique history of the St George region.
Hurstville Museum & Gallery,
14 MacMahon Street, Hurstville

2/ ChillOUT Hubs:
Smart Open-Air Community Spaces
ChillOUT Hubs are a world first, creating ‘third places’ where people can work, gather, or simply hang out to enjoy good company and lively conversations. The customisable modular design responds to different sites and user needs, with all the features needed to work in the open air. ChillOUT Hubs promote a dynamic, connected mobile workforce, provide a break from the home office and support those with limited access to space or the internet at home as remote working becomes mainstream.

Locations:
- Corner of Morts Road and Macquarie Place, Mortdale.
- Timothy Reserve, Hurstville.
- Kogarah Town Square, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.

3/ Carss Park Foreshore
Carss Bush Park is one of the largest eco-engineered foreshores within NSW, combining 750 metres of ecologically diverse estuarine/marine habitat with amenity and accessibility. The recently established shoreline introduces ecosystems, including rock pools hosting multiple fish species and other creatures, mudflats for mangrove and benthic organisms, and a ‘naturalised’ creek line and endangered saltmarsh benches. The Carss Park foreshore is a great place to enjoy the beauty of our city while immersing in one of NSW’s greatest innovations.

Carss Bush Park, Canwar Ave, Carss Park

4/ Library of Things
Hurstville and Kogarah Libraries’ new Library of Things collection features more than 2,000 exciting items for loan. The free access collection features an array of items: from telescopes, tepees, metal detectors and smart globes to musical instruments, robotics kits, and sports equipment. The collection will keep both kids and adults entertained.

Locations:
- Clive James Library and Service Centre, Kogarah Town Square, Belgrave Street, Kogarah.
- Hurstville Library and Service Centre, Corner Queens Road and Dora Street, Hurstville.
5/ Norm O’Neill Cricket Training Facility and Penshurst Park upgrades

Artist Beastman created a large-scale mural on the back wall of the Norm O’Neill Cricket Training Facility and Penshurst Park, as part of recent upgrades. Using the colours in the area, this vibrant, modern artwork takes inspiration from the many sports played in the park. Visitors can also book casual net hire at the Cricket Training facility after taking in the sights.

Norm O’Neill Cricket Training Facility 2 Percival Street, Penshurst.

6/ Oatley Park Adventure Inclusive Playground

Oatley Park Adventure Inclusive Playground, designed under the ‘Everyone Can Play’ guidelines, features separate play zones for a range of ages. More than 80% of the playground and its play elements are accessible for children of all abilities. Constructed primarily of natural materials, the design incorporates landscaping and nature-based play elements sensitive to the park’s beautiful bushland setting and includes new picnic and barbecue facilities.

Oatley Park Adventure Inclusive Playground, 1 Dame Mary Gilmore Rd, Oatley

7/ Jubilee Park Adventure Playground

The very popular Jubilee Park Adventure Playground at Boundary Road, Mortdale, features many activities and equipment to entertain kids and adults, including junior swings, flying foxes, new picnic and barbecue areas, a walking track, and outdoor gym equipment.

2b Boundary Rd, Mortdale

8/ Meade Park Adventure Playground

Allawah’s Meade Park features an all-inclusive adventure playground incorporating diverse zones for all ages and abilities. For the young and inquisitive, a sensory-focused play zone with stimulating and imaginative activities allows social play and sensory learning. Meade Park also features open space, shade structures, accessible picnic shelters and barbeque facilities, ensuring a great day out.

92 Woids Ave, Allawah

9/ Oatley Park

Oatley Park is one Sydney’s finest areas of natural bushland, covering 45 hectares and allowing visitors to enjoy a variety of recreational and sporting activities, including picnics, swimming, walking and cycling, all year round. It has a variety of distinct elements, including native trees, shrubs and native flowers, river beaches, prolific bird life, Adventure Park, ‘castle’, netted swimming baths, a 2km cycling loop, several walking tracks and a wheelchair accessible section from Myra Wall car park.

Oatley Park, 1 Dame Mary Gilmore Rd, Oatley

10/ Riverwood Town Centre

Riverwood has an interesting past, including use as a US military hospital in World War II. More recently, Riverwood has become a foodie’s heaven, with cuisines from all over the world available along Belmore Road, making it the easiest way to stamp your passport without ever leaving town! It’s just a short walk from Riverwood station.

Belmore Rd, Riverwood
I’m extremely proud of everyone – our staff, local businesses, schools and the whole community – who stepped up to the challenge COVID-19 presented.

At Council, we tried to be agile, innovative and, most importantly, compassionate in helping our community. We maintained essential services, while reinventing others and creating new ones, like Library2U that safely delivered over 40,000 items to the front doors of thousands of residents at a critical time.

We launched a Business Support package valued at over $1.5 million to help our small businesses weather the economic impact of the global pandemic.

We boosted communications to keep our community connected and well informed.

Overall, perhaps the most enduring memory for me is the way our community came together in support of each other. Rainbows on footpaths, find-a-teddy treasure hunts in house windows, ANZAC dawn services in our driveways and the #viralkindness movement are examples of why the Northern Beaches is such an extraordinary place to live and work.

Michael Regan
Northern Beaches Council Mayor

Hidden gems in the Northern Beaches

1/ Bilarong Reserve, Narrabeen

Bilarong Reserve, located just off Wakehurst Parkway, has spectacular views of Narrabeen Lagoon. It has all the facilities for a great day out: electric BBQs, toilets, a small boat ramp and sheltered picnic tables. The playground area delights kids of all ages and features beautiful sandstone sculptures, a sand grotto and wooden bridge, to engage exploring imaginations.

2/ Brookvale (aka Brewwale)

Brookvale, home of ‘Brookie Oval’ and the legendary Sea Eagles, is a vibrant commercial hub boasting some of the best breweries and distilleries in Australia. Explore the breweries or try a beach-inspired gin and tonic. ‘Brewwale’ is also home to great cafes and shopping or, if you’re after something different, explore the various health and fitness centres – ever thought of trying floating?

3/ Flying Fox playground, Mona Vale

The all-inclusive playground at Winnererremy Bay keeps kids busy for hours. The drawcard is a flying fox and children can bring bikes to do laps of the park before you set up picnic on the shores of the bay or pull in to the café. The park offers sheltered picnic areas and BBQ facilities on the edge of picturesque Pittwater.
4/ Turimetta Beach

This small and secluded beach is a favourite among locals in the know. To the south of the 350m beach are big flat rocks with little rock pools – a great spot for kids to explore. While there are no facilities on the beach, there is a freshwater tap on the grass.

5/ The Beaches Market, Warriewood

This farmers’ market, one of the best in Sydney, offers the freshest produce sourced directly from growers around Sydney and NSW. Find homewares, fashion, jewellery and collectibles, along with artisan cheeses, homemade cakes and an array of great coffee. Open Friday mornings 8am-1pm.

6/ Manly Dam, Manly Vale

Manly Dam has a range of offerings, from bushwalking and mountain biking to a serene picnic in nature. Choose from 7.5km of walking trails covered in diverse flora and fauna or 11km of mountain biking trails that cater for beginners to advanced riders. There is a new inclusive playground where the family can enjoy a picnic and a play by the water.

7/ Cascades Trail, Davidson

This picturesque trail partially circumnavigates the suburb of Davidson and is shared by walkers, horse riders and mountain bikers. The medium-difficultly fire trail features a series of waterfalls, rock platforms and native Australian trees lining the path down to the creek, which is a lovely spot for a picnic before starting the return walk.

8/ Mona Vale town centre

This bustling town centre offers anything you could want, from boutiques to beauty, French patisseries, and home-baked breads to great coffee. It is also home to a new mural, inspired and created by local artists, that highlights the surrounding natural world across the Northern Beaches. Also find a great brewery tucked away or choose from the many great local eateries.

9/ Stoney Range Botanical Gardens, Dee Why

This oasis of Australian native plants, located in the heart of bustling Dee Why, takes you instantly to another world. Intricate walkways wind through a variety of microclimates. The main circuit takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and is accessible to all. A great place to escape and find some peace in the everyday.

10/ Pittwater, Palm Beach

Discover the sparkling waters of Pittwater, once referred to by Governor Arthur Phillip as “the finest piece of water I ever saw”. Jump on board a ferry from Palm Beach to Currawong, The Basin, Cottage Point or Patonga for a day trip. Hire a kayak or boat and try your luck fishing or for the adventurous, paddle over to Great Mackerel Beach and take a bush walk to West Head. Enjoy a round of golf but don’t be distracted by the seaplanes landing or the yachts slipping by! Walk through the sand dunes at North Palm Beach or climb Barrenjoey Headland to take in the spectacular scenery. There are picnic facilities, rest rooms and open spaces to throw down a picnic or visit one of the many great local cafes and restaurants.
Life in the City of Parramatta has changed considerably this year due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a tough time for our City, residents and local businesses, and Council’s programs and services have responded to this change. We are focused on delivering services in a way that help our businesses and community bounce back faster and stronger by encouraging innovation, adaptability and resilience.

As the warmer months arrive, and community confidence grows, there are plenty of exciting places in our City to explore, eat, and experience - some of Parramatta’s best kept secrets. These hidden gems are highly valued by our local community, and I look forward to seeing people from all across Sydney enjoying them again as they head outdoors.

Bob Dwyer  
City of Parramatta Lord Mayor

1/ Ollie Webb All-Abilities Playground

This welcoming all-inclusive playspace is just a few minutes from the Parramatta CBD. Designed using the ‘Everyone Can Play’ principles, its diverse equipment maximises creative, physical, social and cognitive play for big and small kids of all abilities. In warmer months, the water play park is the ultimate cool down activity with a multitude of sprinklers. The park also features enjoyable family picnic and barbecue facilities.

16 Glebe St, Parramatta

2/ Lake Parramatta

Reconnect with nature on the tranquil Terry Creek Bushwalk in Epping. Begin at Vimiera Park to see the majestic Sydney Blue Gums at the remnant Blue Gum High Forest. Look out for nesting boxes, creek crossings and a waterfall along the newly upgraded path, which teems with wildlife. Cool down at Epping Pool (booking required), and afterwards, stroll to the centre of Epping to feast on an array of international cuisines.

Vimiera Park, Albuera Rd, Epping

3/ Terry Creek Bushwalk

Reconnect with nature on the tranquil Terry Creek Bushwalk in Epping. Begin at Vimiera Park to see the majestic Sydney Blue Gums at the remnant Blue Gum High Forest. Look out for nesting boxes, creek crossings and a waterfall along the newly upgraded path, which teems with wildlife. Cool down at Epping Pool (booking required), and afterwards, stroll to the centre of Epping to feast on an array of international cuisines.

Vimiera Park, Albuera Rd, Epping

4/ Parramatta Valley Cycleway

This 20km off-road path allows bikes to travel over creeks and wetlands along the river between Parramatta Park and Sydney Olympic Park. Chill at Morrison Bay Park in Ryde before heading west through Ermington Nature Reserve to the Parramatta CBD. Continue on the Parramatta Park loop or explore the Parramatta Heritage Ride. Look for Aboriginal art pieces while on the boardwalks of the Baludarri Wetlands.

Baludarri Wetlands, 10 Pemberton St, Parramatta
5/ CBD River Foreshore precinct
For at least 40,000 years, the Burramatta people, of the Darug Nation, have lived on the banks of the Parramatta River. Today, the rich cultural and environmental significance of the Parramatta River continues, enhanced by modern linkages. For foodies, there are outstanding restaurants along the CBD riverfront, to be explored during a leisurely stroll on the boardwalk. Brunch lovers also get four free hours in the Riverbank Car Park on Sundays!

Riverbank Car Park, Oyster Ln, Parramatta

6/ Gather at Parramatta Square (PSQ)
Parramatta always was, and always will be, a gathering place. The new Parramatta Square encourages discovery of this history via installations throughout the site. Grab a burger or dip into tasty fish after jumping off the train at Parramatta Station; new restaurants will open in the coming months for breezy summer outdoor dining. Sign up on the PSQ website to be the first to discover future openings.

12 Darcy St, Parramatta

7/ Harris Park neighbourhood
Experience the taste of traditional curries, authentic samosas, pani puri and masala dosas at over 20 different and exciting eateries in Harris Park. Take your own personal Indian food safari without leaving the country. Then walk off your meal along Wigram Street and discover speciality stores selling colourful saris, Indian spices and sweet treats.

69 Wigram St, Harris Park

8/ Wentworth Point Library and Community Centre
This state-of-the-art multipurpose facility opened in December 2019 and boasts Australia’s first 24-hr public library foyer, featuring the first public library book vending machine in NSW. Book workspaces online to meet your working and studying from home needs. The Centre is continuing online storytelling and school holiday workshops.

10 Footbridge Blvd, Wentworth Point

9/ Parramatta by Foot art trail
Western Sydney artists are creating vibrant footpath art in the Parramatta area as part of a new Council initiative to help the community stay connected while social distancing. The Parramatta By Foot project, curated by Parramatta Artists’ Studios, transformed walkways, including at the Harris Park Shops and Granville Station. Installations include Nadia Odlum’s maze “I’ll Meet You Here Again” in the Wentworth Point Community Centre and Library forecourt (pictured).

10/ Walking tours
The Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre is reactivating a limited range of personalised walking tours for individuals and small groups, including during the school holidays. Knowledgeable and passionate guides showcase the rich natural and cultural heritage of Sydney’s Central River City. To book experiences, such as the popular Warami Mittigar Aboriginal Cultural Walk, go to www.discoverparramatta.com.

The New Local: Parramatta
On behalf of everyone at Waverley Council, I would like to congratulate the Waverley community and the people of NSW for doing their bit to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The purpose of this guide is to help you stay safe when visiting our public spaces and exploring all that our wonderful area has to offer. This is not going to be a normal summer, and we must continue to follow the current Public Health Orders so we can continue to keep our public places safe.

Our beaches are a major focus, and our wonderful Lifeguards, Rangers and Beach Ambassadors are doing their bit to manage visitor numbers and help keep our beaches open. Please keep 1.5 metres or a towel-length apart when visiting our public places and observe restrictions on gatherings. If our beaches look busy, please visit another time or use that time to explore some of Waverley’s lesser-known neighbourhood gems or visit our local businesses – they need your continued support. Waverley Council is continuing to work with NSW Health, the police and other stakeholders to ensure Public Health Orders are observed in our area and the community uses our public places safely.

I personally wish to thank the people of Waverley, and Bondi in particular, for their patience during this pandemic. Please, help us by following the advice of authorities, and together we can have a safe and enjoyable summer 2021.

Paula Masselos
Waverley Council Mayor

1/ Waverley Cemetery
Visit the final resting place of Dorothea Mackellar, Henry Lawson and Victor Trumper while exploring the beautiful heritage-listed cemetery set on 16 hectares of stunning coastal land that has become a haven for small birds including the superb fairy-wren and the New Holland honeyeater.
2/ Charing Cross Village
Waverley’s first village, Charing Cross, is part of a conservation area featuring beautiful heritage-listed buildings and boutique shops. Its heritage included bush and scrubland, paddocks and stables, horse-omnibus, steam and electric trams. The village is just a hop, skip and jump from the Bondi Junction CBD.

3/ Dickson Park
This park on the corner of Edward and Wellington streets is a favourite among Bondi parents. It boasts a fantastic playground featuring a giant slide, picnic tables and plenty of places to sit in the sun or shade. It’s great for all ages, especially the little ones. The upper part of the park is dog-friendly and has a basketball hoop and key.

4/ Waverley Park
Waverley Park’s sprawling gardens offer a lush, green alternative to the coastal walk, which is especially handy if time is of the essence. It’s one of Waverley’s many dog-friendly parks with on and off-leash areas. It also has multi-purpose sporting fields, a playground and exercise station and is home to Waverley Cenotaph, built more than 100 years ago.

5/ South Head Cemetery
The final resting place of Australia’s first Prime Minister, Sir Edmund Barton, and several members of the prominent Packer and Fairfax families. South Head Cemetery in Vaucluse has more than 6,000 grave sites and memorials spread over a total area of just under two hectares. Macquarie Lighthouse is nearby.

6/ Thomas Hogan Reserve
Thomas Hogan Reserve is a hidden gem tucked between Francis Street and Hogan Street in Bondi, with ample greenery, stairs for exercise and a children’s playground ideal for children up to 4.

7/ Dudley Page Reserve
Commanding vistas across Sydney Harbour to the Sydney Harbour Bridge and beyond greets visitors to this expansive park, which features a small playground, children’s learn-to-ride track and exercise station. The park has plenty of space to kick a ball around. Pack a picnic and make an afternoon of it.

8/ Varna Park
Varna Park, hidden away in a quiet residential area in Bronte, has a lovely kid’s play area, picnic hut and plenty of room to exercise your pet. Plenty of food and drink options are nearby with a bowling club next door and cafes just up the hill.

9/ Raleigh Reserve to Rodney Reserve
Offering dramatic clifftop scenery, Raleigh and Rodney Reserve is a great spot for happy snaps, greeting the sunrise in the east, whale watching and exercising with your furry friends. It’s also a great starting point for other local walks such as the Cliff Top Walk, Macquarie Lighthouse, Hornby Lighthouse and the South Head Walk.

10/ Online events
Due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, Waverley Council holds a number of events online for the entire community to enjoy, including Waverley Library talks and music sessions. Our famous Festival of the Winds Festival is also now entirely online this year. The kite-flying displays at Bondi Beach and cultural performances at Bondi Park will be replaced with an online festival featuring on-demand videos, live performances, online galleries, workshops and activities on Sunday 13 September. Visit: festivalofthewinds.com.au
Hidden gems in Woollahra

The Woollahra local government area in Sydney's east is located just 10 minutes from the city's central business district and is easily accessed by car or public transport. It offers a wonderful selection of experiences to enjoy during spring and summer.

From our gorgeous harbour foreshore parks and walks through to our unique urban shopping villages and public art trail, our local area offers plenty of open spaces for recreation, spectacular views and moments to enjoy safely with friends and family.

Visiting in late November through to December is truly special as you are likely to see the beautiful purple Jacaranda trees in full bloom lining our streets and parks. Woollahra is magnificent all year round and we hope to see you soon!

Councillor Susan Wynne
Mayor of Woollahra

1/ Public art trail
Take a walk or cycle around the local area to enjoy a wide variety of public artworks scattered along the harbour foreshore, in our parks and tucked away in quiet laneways. Discover murals, painted traffic signal boxes and large and small sculptures along our DIY Art and Culture Walking Tour at www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/publicart. And check out the Egg Swing and Sea’s Nest for great photo opportunities.

2/ Double Bay Organic Market
Pop down to grab some lunch or pick up your groceries for the week at the organic markets, held every Thursday from 9am to 2pm in Guilfoyle Park, Double Bay. The market features fresh food and flowers, homemade goods, clothing and gifts. After a visit to the market, explore the rest of the Double Bay shopping village, adjacent to the park.

3/ Bondi to Manly Walk
The Bondi to Manly Walk is the famous 80km walk around Sydney Harbour connecting Bondi Beach to Manly Beach via the Harbour Bridge. The Walk winds along the harbour foreshore at Woollahra, around South Head and along the stunning clifftop walk to Bondi Beach, passing historic sites and monuments, outlooks, parks and gardens. The full 80km track has physical waymarks to guide walkers but can be done in small sections. Download the free app to guide you at: bonditomanly.com.

4/ Kayak, Rose Bay
Enjoy beautiful Sydney Harbour and its beaches from the water. Launch your own kayak from any beach or hire one from Rose Bay and enjoy the view solo or with friends as you follow the bays and beaches all the way around to South Head. Pack a lunch, sunscreen, wear a life vest and a hat and discover a Sydney never seen from roads or walking paths.
5/ Walk and cycle, Rose Bay
Visitors and locals enjoy walking along New South Head Road, from Double Bay to Rose Bay, following the wide, tree-lined harbourside promenade toward Lyne Park. In October, the Beach to Bay Connection, a new pop-up cycleway, will run from Rose Bay ferry to Bondi Beach to provide an easier and safer route for cyclists and an alternative to public transport during the COVID-19 pandemic.

6/ Chiswick Gardens, West Woollahra
The beautifully manicured Chiswick Gardens on the corner of Wellington and Ocean Streets, near Queen Street, one of Sydney’s quaintest shopping villages. This well-established public garden offers wonderful respite after a day of retail therapy in Paddington or West Woollahra. The famous restaurant Chiswick Woollahra is also located within the grounds of the park and the chefs make use of the fresh produce they grow on site.

7/ William St, Paddington
Just off the historic Oxford Street in Paddington, take a detour into this eclectic side street lined with Victorian terrace houses that are home to a wide range of unique boutiques, stores, and eateries.

8/ Parsley Bay Reserve, Vaucluse
Parsley Bay Reserve is a popular recreational spot tucked away off Horler Avenue, featuring harbour foreshore and bushland walks, one of Sydney’s last remaining cable suspension bridges, a summer swimming enclosure, open spaces suitable for picnics, and a kiosk. A new all-abilities playground in lush surrounds includes integrated wheelchair play equipment. Look for a water dragon sunning itself on the rocks during your visit!

9/ Clifftop walk, Vaucluse to South Head, Watsons Bay
The 5km walk takes approximately three hours at a leisurely pace, or can be done in shorter sections. Enjoy uninterrupted ocean views and glimpses of the city skyline while passing historic sites including the Signal Station and Macquarie Lighthouse, and discover the surrounding parkland at Gap Park, Robertson Park, and the Sydney Harbour National Park. Macquarie Lighthouse is Australia’s earliest and longest continually operated light station and the Signal Station at Outer South Head was built in 1842 to observe and assist in the control of shipping.

10/ A dip with a view, Watsons Bay Baths
Watsons Bay Baths is a fully accessible harbourside tidal enclosure popular with all age groups. The enclosure has two floating turning board/sunbathing pontoons, a boardwalk and seating with great views of Sydney Harbour, with Tea Gardens adjacent. After a splash, visitors can enjoy a picnic at Robertson Park or ‘fish and chips’ at the nearby cafes and restaurants.
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service recommends people visit national parks in the middle of the week when visitor numbers are lower. Great places to visit in the Greater Sydney area:

1/ Marrammarra National Park
Marrammarra National Park in the Hawkesbury area offers large natural areas, a remote setting, spectacular views, and a variety of experiences for bushwalkers who are well-prepared.

2/ Garrawarra State Conservation Area
Garrawarra State Conservation Area, on the border of the Royal National Park between Waterfall and Helensburgh in south Sydney, offers peaceful bushwalking trails and a picnic area with views of cascading waterfalls and surrounding rainforest. Use the NPWS app to research before you go to find the best tracks.

3/ Scheyville National Park
Scheyville National Park near Windsor in north-west Sydney has a surprising cultural history with historic buildings and the remnants of a post-World War II migrant camp to explore, as well as the natural beauty of Longneck Lagoon, a freshwater wetland attracting an array of birds.

4/ Berowra Valley Regional Park
The northern part of this national park in northern Sydney is less visited and provides more than 70km of walking tracks and trails. The Lyrebird Gully Trail and Berkeley Trail are recommended bushwalks.

5/ Rouse Hill Regional Park
Rouse Hill Regional Park in the Hills District of north-west Sydney has family-friendly and pram-friendly walking tracks, cycle paths, BBQs, and is one of the few national parks that allows dogs (on leash).

Some parks remain closed due to the recent bushfires and floods. Some visitor areas are closed to ensure compliance with the current rules on public gatherings. Before planning your visit please check COVID-19 update for health and safety information and alerts for closures in NSW national parks.

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