

CITY EXAMPLES

SWIMMABLE CITIES

Prelude: Empowering Actors to inspire Decision-Makers

From our journey so far, we've started to see patterns of how successful advocacy can lead to breakthroughs for local actors working towards their urban waterways becoming 'swimmable' and the creation of thriving urban swimming communities. The context in each urban waterway – community – city relationship is different, but common themes exist.

We've started to receive more and more interest from municipalities wondering how they can get involved, what becoming a Charter signatory involves and this key one – how have other city municipalities successfully gain the support of their communities and leaders?

So, we're beginning to compile (as they emerge), examples of cities starting their journeys towards becoming Swimmable Cities! Being a movement, our role isn't to do the work for you, part of our role is to share tools to empower you to inspire decision-makers and make progress in your local areas.

Here we go!

Examples (Round 1 – Founding Signatories)

#1: City of Yarra (Melbourne, Australia)

New '[Climate Emergency Plan](#)', July 9

Media release re: Swimmable Cities Charter signing, Jul 15 - [here](#)

Guardian article, July 17 - [here](#)

CBD News article, July 24 - [here](#)

Two Bays Podcast featuring Mayor & Councillor, Aug 19 - [here](#)

#2: City of Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Coming soon.

#3: (Vienna, Austria)

Coming soon.

Appendix:

What's the commitment of becoming a Charter signatory?

By expressing your organisation's interest in signing the first ever Swimmable Cities Charter, you're showing a commitment to working in accordance with its principles and embodied values. Your fellow peers, citizens and Nature will be your ultimate accountability.

1. Membership Requirements: What are the criteria for joining the SC alliance? Are there specific projects or improvements that we need to undertake in our city?

Being a voluntary Charter, the key requirements are that your City/organisation agrees to work and make decisions in alignment with the Charter's 10 principles and to become a positive role model for other cities and organisations in the movement. As we describe in our Expression of Interest form, your fellow peers, citizens and Nature will be your ultimate accountability.

2. Obligations and Penalties: What are the responsibilities and standards we need to adhere to during the membership process? Additionally, what penalties might we face if we fail to meet these standards?

Being a Charter signatory involves self-regulation, but no formal regulation currently takes place by our Steering Committee. When we progress further and begin exploring our 'Flagship' Swimmable Cities program (2025 >), there will be more guidelines and processes, but that will come in future stages in our development.

Note: if we did learn that harmful practices were occurring and impacting the health of a Signatory's local urban waterways and urban swimming culture, we may need to revoke their Signatory status.

3. Application Process: What are the steps and required documents for submitting a membership application?

You need to first gain internal alignment within your organisation, which may require endorsements by your Mayor, Councillors and community members in the case of municipalities, or Board Members, Senior Leaders and team members in the case of organisation. You can then fill out the [Expression of Interest](#) form. We'll be reviewing our latest applications shortly, and then preparing for a collective campaign aligned with World Rivers Day 2024, Sept 22.

Express Your Interest - [HERE](#)