

Paris mayor wants Seine swimming for 2024 Games bid

May 17 2016



A paddle-boat race takes place on the River Seine in Paris

The mayor of Paris called Tuesday for the city's celebrated river Seine to be cleaned up and made safe for swimming as part of its bid to host the 2024 Olympic Games.

Mayor Anne Hidalgo said she would like to see some of the swimming events staged in the Seine, and for parts of the river opened up for public

use.

"I want swimming in the Seine to be made possible by 2024," she said, adding that preparations for the Olympic bid presented a "historic opportunity" to improve environmental protections, transport and accommodation in the city.

Hidalgo said she hoped to see the [swimming](#) stage of the triathlon and the 10-kilometre open water event staged in the Seine.

The quality of the capital's famed waterway has improved in recent years, but sewage pipes still spew 2.5 million cubic metres of waste every year into the river, which is also polluted by effluents from factories upstream.

Hidalgo's ambition comes nearly three decades after [mayor](#) Jacques Chirac—who later became president—vowed in 1988 to swim in the Seine five years later, which he famously never did.

Paris faces competition from Los Angeles, Rome and Budapest to host the 2024 Olympics.

The winner will be named on September 13, 2017, in Lima.

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Citation: Paris mayor wants Seine swimming for 2024 Games bid (2016, May 17) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-05-paris-mayor-seine-games.html>

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