



Image 1: Non-statutory public consultation in October 2025.

# HODSON BAY WATERFRONT PARK: PROJECT UPDATES JANUARY 2026

*This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund.*

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## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Hodson Bay Waterfront Park is a multidisciplinary project aimed at enhancing the Hodson Bay area into a flagship tourism facility. The project's key objectives include:

- Sustainability - Deliver sustainable tourism that benefits the environment and communities.
- Growth - Grow businesses, visitor numbers, jobs, and the local economy.
- Accessibility - Enable a more inclusive visitor experience for all ages and abilities.
- Alignment - Align with key masterplans and strategies, including the Shannon Tourism Masterplan 2020-2030, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, and the EU Just Transition.

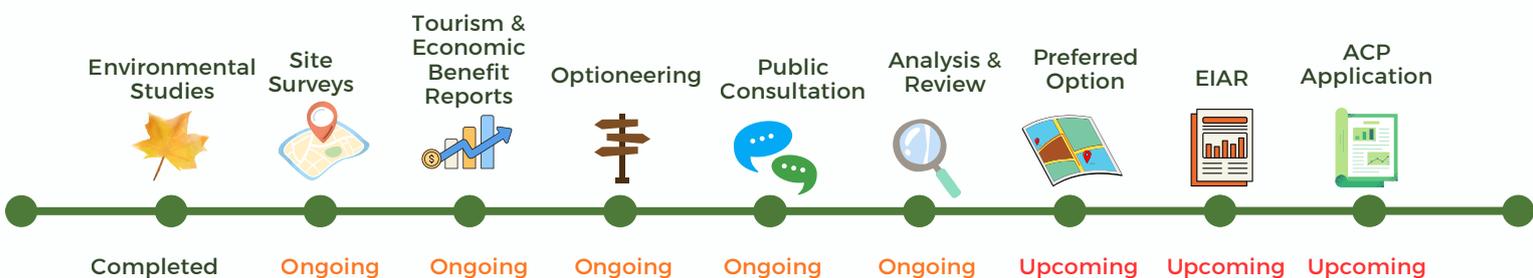
## KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

The key elements of this project are:

- Water Sports Pavilion - New building with café, changing rooms, meeting spaces, and a rooftop terrace.
- Promenade and Marina Expansion - Lakeside promenade, expanded marina with up to 50 berths, and a new water-based experience.
- Public Realm Enhancements - Plaza, play areas, picnic spots, and event spaces along the waterfront.
- Sustainable Transport Measures - Safer walking, cycling, and parking, including a link to the proposed Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park Greenway.

These improvements will create a welcoming and lively waterfront destination for the local community and visitors.

## PROGRESS TO DATE



**Optioneering Exercise:** The optioneering process is ongoing. The team is reviewing both current and future needs for Hodson Bay Waterfront Park. This includes how the site and its businesses operate, how people access the area, and how visitors use the park throughout the year, including seasonal changes.

Different design options for the Waterfront Park are being assessed using a multi-criteria scoring matrix that compares each option against the same set of criteria. This allows the team to identify the most suitable options by considering technical, environmental, operational, and stakeholder factors.

The design options have been developed by the technical teams and refined through public consultation, site visits, surveys, weekly design meetings, and workshops with key partners, including Civic, RKD, Okra, CHL, MKO, Roscommon County Council, and Waterways Ireland. Feedback from the community and stakeholders is considered throughout the preparation and evaluation of the design options. This has resulted in additional design options, which are assessed using the same multi-criteria scoring matrix. All options and the assessments will be included in the optioneering report, to be published in 2026.

**Wintering Bird Surveys:** The ecological survey effort at Hodson Bay is continuing with the seasonal wintering birds surveys currently taking place. It is expected that the wintering bird surveying at the site will conclude in March 2026.

**Tourism and Economy:** The Tourism and Economic study is aligned to the scheme design with ongoing assessment of future activities on site in consultation with key stakeholders. Visitor profiling of the Hodson Bay was completed in November 2025 with 800 visitors surveyed at key periods between July and November 2025. The improvements proposed for the Hodson Bay Marina Park development address current and future needs of visitors based on the survey findings.

## PLANS FOR MONTH AHEAD

For the month ahead:

- The optioneering exercise is ongoing.
- We are now preparing for a second non-statutory consultation at the **end of February 2026**.
- At this event, we will be presenting the preferred option for the scheme and will be seeking further feedback from the community before progressing into the next design phase. More information on this event will be shared soon.
- Following this second consultation, all feedback will be brought together to inform the preliminary design on the preferred option, which will then be taken forward to the Environmental Impact Assessment stage to guide the next phase of the waterfront park's development.



Image 2: Hodson Bay captured during wintering bird surveys.



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