



Image 1: A design option concept sketch for the Hodson Bay Water Sports Pavilion by RKD.

# HODSON BAY WATERFRONT PARK: PROJECT UPDATES SEPTEMBER 2025

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Hodson Bay Waterfront Park is a multi-disciplinary project aimed at enhancing the Hodson Bay area into a flagship tourism facility. The project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

### TOURISM & ECONOMIC BENEFIT

The Tourism and Economic Study of the proposed development at Hodson Bay Marina Park began in summer. It is being undertaken by CHL & Associates, a specialist tourism consultancy with visitor profiling conducted by REC C. The initial research stage, covering policy context, market profile, comparator review, visitor profiling and key stakeholder engagement, has been completed. During autumn, CHL & Associates will develop the visitor and tourism profile for the development, collaborating with the masterplanning team on concept design, examining the variety of uses and user groups, gathering insights from public consultation, and assessing the likely economic impact of the proposed development.

### OPTIONEERING REPORT

An optioneering study is being prepared to identify the best design solutions for the Hodson Bay Waterfront Park. The proposals prioritise sustainability, community and universal accessibility, with plans for new berthing facilities, flexible public spaces and attractions to encourage longer stays and year round activity.

Key features include a continuous promenade along the shoreline, an extension of the Waterways Ireland marina with up to 50 additional berths and an immersive water experience. The designs also focus on stronger land to water connections, accessible outdoor areas and a pedestrian friendly environment.

There will be a series of public consultation events later this year, giving the community and stakeholders the chance to review the plans and provide feedback.



## MARINA DESIGN

The marina is being designed in line with the following principles to create a welcoming and versatile space for everyone:

- Inclusive & Accessible: Designed for equitable use by all visitors.
- Recognisable Features: Key elements are clear and easy to navigate.
- Flexible Use: Spaces can adapt to different activities and needs.
- Open to the Water: Strong connections between land and Lough Ree.
- Simple & Intuitive: Easy to use and understand for all visitors.

These principles ensure the marina will be a safe and enjoyable space for the community and visitors.

## SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

Some of the key sustainability features being incorporated into the Hodson Bay Waterfront design include:

- Renewable Energy: Solar panels to reduce energy demand.
- Sustainable Design: Working with nature and the existing infrastructure where possible to reduce impacts and material requirements.
- Water Management: Rainwater harvesting, with careful planning of water movement and collection points.
- Construction: Built for longevity and adaptability, with the option for future deconstruction if needed.
- Waste Management: Recycling stations to encourage responsible disposal.

## SURVEYS

A bathymetric survey has been carried out on sections of Lough Ree to measure the depth and shape of the lakebed guiding the design of new berthing facilities, shoreline improvements and waterside amenities. Topographical and manhole surveys have also been undertaken to record ground levels, site features and underground drainage.

## INCLUSIVITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Inclusivity and accessibility are central to the Hodson Bay Marina design. The marina will be welcoming and usable for all visitors, with features and spaces designed to ensure equitable and enjoyable access for everyone. This includes accessible pathways, berths, public areas and facilities, as well as clear signage and intuitive layouts.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

Two rounds of in-person public consultation events are being considered to engage the public and local community in the design process to provide feedback on the design options for the project. Further details on the consultation approach, timeline for feedback, and venue, date and time for the first public event will be published on the Roscommon Council Website in the coming weeks.

Please visit [Hodson Bay Waterfront Park - Roscommon County Council](#), for the latest updates on the project and further information on the public events.

## PLANS FOR MONTH AHEAD

Over the coming month, the design options will be finalised and incorporated into the finalised optioneering report where they will be assessed against a range of criteria in an effort to identify the best design to deliver on the project objectives. Survey data is being reviewed and incorporated into the optioneering report. This will then be prepared for public consultation.



Image 2: Hodson Bay Waterfront Park



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