

Recreation and Sport Policy

Vision

The Green Party envisions an Aotearoa New Zealand in which:

- People of all ages and abilities have easy access to a range of recreational and sporting opportunities.
- Participation in recreation and sport is viewed positively and there is increasing involvement by all New Zealanders regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability.
- Recreation and sport assist people in maintaining mental and physical health, active lifestyles and contribute to their social wellbeing.

Key Principles

1. The provision of recreational and sporting facilities should be sufficient to meet the diverse needs of local communities now and into the future.
2. Recreation and sport should be accessible to all, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability.
3. Equity is needed between women's and men's recreation and sport.
4. Communities need access to the natural environment and public open space for a range of recreational opportunities, whilst ensuring sensitive ecological habitats are protected.
5. Recreation and sport should be provided and promoted in a way that encourages healthy lifestyle choices and behaviours.
6. The contribution of volunteers, coaches, officials and administrators should be recognised and supported.

Specific Policy Points

1. Provision of recreational and sporting facilities

Policy Positions

- 1.1 Provide facilities that are:
 - a) a focal point for communities and offer a wide range of activities.
 - b) easily accessible using active modes (walking and cycling) and public transport (see our [Transport](#) policy).
 - c) provided in a way that maximises use of the venue and minimises the costs for individual and group activities.
 - d) developed using 'green' building design and products (see our [Housing and Sustainable Development](#) policy).
- 1.2 Develop safe walking and cycling options throughout Aotearoa New Zealand for recreation and to access recreational facilities (see our [Transport Policy](#)).
- 1.3 Provide off-road tracks for a range of outdoor recreational activities that also give access to parks and waterways or connect communities. These tracks can be multi-use but should be designed to minimise conflicting needs (e.g. cyclists, walkers, horseriders), and avoid harm to sensitive ecological and environmental habitats.
- 1.4 Provide a range of watersports and water-based activities that minimise conflicting use (e.g. swimming, yachting, kitesurfers) and avoid harm to aquatic life or habitats.

2. Enjoying our natural environment

Policy Positions

- 2.1 Promote the key role played by regional and national parks, beaches and rivers, and local parks and reserves in the provision of recreational activities.
- 2.2 Increase funding to the Department of Conservation to ensure it can protect and conserve our environment for current and future generations (see our [Conservation](#) Policy).
- 2.3 Require the Department of Conservation to prioritise recreation over commercial tourism interests in line with its Conservation Act mandate to "foster recreation" and only "allow for tourism" (see our [Tourism](#) Policy).

- 2.4 Put in place strong environmental standards for air and water quality that will encourage and enhance outdoor recreation such as cycling and swimming (see our [Environmental Protection](#) Policy).

3. [Funding](#)

Policy Positions

- 3.1 Increase funding to support the development and maintenance of recreational and sporting facilities and infrastructure, whilst reducing the reliance on revenue from gambling (pokie) machines (see our [Gambling](#) Policy).
- 3.2 Phase out sports sponsorship by alcohol brands and increase government funding for sponsorship to fill the gap (see our [Drug Law Reform](#) policy).
- 3.3 Ensure that funding for elite and premier grade activities and facilities is not to the detriment of community activities and infrastructure, recognising that success in elite sport starts with access to great community facilities and activities.
- 3.4 Ensure that Councils, schools, community trusts, Māori organisations and other groups have access to appropriate funding to enable them to meet the recreational and sporting needs of their community.
- 3.5 Ensure that Councils and the Department of Conservation have appropriate funding to enable provision of facilities and infrastructure for a range of recreational activities (tracks, huts, viewing platforms, wharfs, etc).

4. [Cost to participants](#)

Policy Positions

- 4.1 Structure funding of recreational and sporting activities to minimise cost as a barrier to participation where possible.
- 4.2 Encourage options such as flexible pricing during the day to increase usage in off-peak times, for facilities such as swimming pools and recreation, and sports centres.

5. [Enabling and encouraging participation](#)

Policy Positions

- 5.1 Ensure that facilities that are accessible and support programmes specifically for disabled participants.

- 5.2 Promote women's recreational and sporting opportunities through equal access, funding and publicity, bearing in mind that extra spending may be required to bring women's recreation and sport up to the same standard as men's.
- 5.3 Support the provision of activities that:
 - a) Reflect the age and cultural diversity of the community.
 - b) Cater for a range of abilities from beginners to the highly skilled.
 - c) Are provided at different times during the day and evening throughout the week.
 - d) Promote safety and reduce risk in recreational and sporting activities (e.g. 'learn to swim' and water safety).
- 5.4 Promote the contribution workplaces can make in supporting recreational and sporting activities amongst their employees (see our [Workforce](#) Policy).
- 5.5 Support the provision of services that make community recreation and sports centres accessible to young families, such as crèche, after school and holiday programmes.

6. [Supporting volunteers and coaches](#)

Policy Positions

- 6.1 Recognise the important contribution of volunteers, coaches, officials and administrators to recreational and sporting activities (see our [Community and Voluntary Sector](#) policy).
- 6.2 Ensure that training and support for coaches, volunteers, officials and administrators are available, accessible and funded.

7. [Promotion of recreation and sport](#)

Policy Positions

- 7.1 Support television coverage and print media that profiles a range of recreational and sporting activities, recognising the influence of this on participation.
- 7.2 Use the greater number of freeview channels to showcase a greater range of recreational and sporting activities on free-to-air television.
- 7.3 Support the promotion of recreational and sporting activities in a way that encourages healthy lifestyles and positive messages.
- 7.4 Support a high moral and ethical approach to sporting behaviour.

- 7.5 Support a positive image of recreational and sporting activities being used to support tourism and the image of Aotearoa New Zealand internationally (see also our [Tourism](#) policy).
- 7.6 Support information about recreational and sporting activities being promoted on websites, community noticeboards, local newspapers and tourist information.

8. [Governance and legislation](#)

Policy Positions

- 8.1 Support ecologically and socially robust decisions on recreational and sporting facilities and activities being made by local communities.
- 8.2 Encourage Councils and the Department of Conservation to protect land for recreation and sporting purposes under the Reserves Act 1977, including the preparation of management plans to ensure reserves are appropriately maintained and used.
- 8.3 Give the Minister of Sport and Recreation responsibility for ensuring:
 - a) Adequate funding for local and regional councils, schools, community trusts, Māori organisations and other groups providing recreational and sporting facilities and activities.
 - b) Increased participation in recreation and sport, as well as providing pathways for people with potential to perform nationally or internationally.
 - c) Education providers are able to make sufficient courses and programmes available to those seeking a career in the recreation or sporting sector, or wishing to develop their skills as coaches, officials and administrators.
 - d) Legislation requiring commercial providers of recreational and sporting activities to take all necessary steps to ensure reasonable safety precautions are taken or adhered to.
- 8.4 Collect statistics on participation in a broader range of recreational and sporting activities.