

Recreation and Sport Policy

Spokesperson: Julie Anne Genter MP

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Definitions

People participate in a wide range of recreational and sporting activities on land, in the sea and in the air. Recreation and sport can be defined as:

Recreation - A broad range of activities undertaken for a variety of reasons including personal enjoyment, social interaction, general fitness, health, mental, spiritual or physical wellbeing.

Sport - A physical activity that may be undertaken as part of a team or as an individual in a professional or amateur capacity. Sport is usually competitive, though people often participate for social interaction and general health and fitness benefits.

Vision

1. People of all ages and abilities have easy access to a range of recreational and sporting opportunities.
2. Participation in recreation and sport is viewed positively and there is increasing involvement by all New Zealanders regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability.
3. 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 and support a range of activities for all age groups, now and into the future.
2. Recreation and sport should be accessible to all, and encourage participation by groups whose participation rates are traditionally lower.
3. Equity is needed between women's and men's recreation and sport with respect to funding, promotion, participation, and prominence in the media.
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

The Green Party will promote:

1. Facilities being:
 - a. a focal point for communities and offering a diverse 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 Communities](#) policy).
2. The development of safe walking and cycling options throughout Aotearoa New Zealand (see our [Transport](#) policy).
3. The provision of off-road tracks for a range of recreational activities that give access to parks, 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.
4. The provision of a range of watersports and water based activities that minimise conflicting use (e.g. swimming, yachting, windsurfers) and avoid harm to aquatic life or habitats.

2. Enjoying our natural environment

The Green Party will:

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. 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).
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).
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 [Environment](#) policy).

3. Funding

The Green Party will ensure that:

1. Increased funding is available 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).
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. Funding for elite and premier grade activities and facilities are not to the detriment of community activities and infrastructure.
4. Councils, schools, community trusts, Māori organisations and other groups have access to appropriate funding to enable them to meet the needs of their community.

5. 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

The Green Party will ensure that:

1. Funding of recreational and sporting activities is structured to minimise cost as a barrier to participation where possible.
2. 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 is encouraged.

5. Enabling and encouraging participation

To increase participation in recreational and sporting activities the Green Party will support:

1. Facilities that are accessible and have programmes specifically for disabled participants.
2. The promotion of 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.
3. The provision of activities that reflect the age and cultural diversity of the community.
4. Activities that cater for a range of abilities from beginners to the highly skilled.
5. Activities that are provided at different times during the day and evening throughout the week.
6. The contribution workplaces can make in supporting recreational and sporting activities amongst their employees (see our [Work and Employment](#) Policy).
7. The provision of services that make community recreation and sports centres accessible to young families, such as crèche, after school and holiday programmes.
8. Courses that promote safety and reduce risk in recreational and sporting activities (e.g. 'learn to swim' and water safety).

6. Supporting volunteers and coaches

The Green Party will ensure that:

1. The important contribution that volunteers, coaches, officials and administrators make to recreational and sporting activities is recognised (see our [Community and Voluntary Sector](#) policy).
2. Training and support for coaches, volunteers, officials and administrators is available, accessible and funded.

7. Promotion of recreation and sport

The Green Party supports:

1. Television coverage and print media that profiles a range of recreational and sporting activities recognising the influence this has on participation.
2. The opportunities that more freeview channels offer for showcasing a greater range of recreational and sporting activities on free to air television.
3. Promotion of recreational and sporting activities in a way that encourages healthy lifestyles and positive messages.

4. Aotearoa New Zealand having a high moral and ethical approach to sporting behaviour.
5. A positive image of recreational and sporting activities being used to support tourism and the image of Aotearoa New Zealand internationally.
6. Information about recreational and sporting activities being promoted on websites, community noticeboards, local newspapers and tourist information.

8. Governance and legislation

The Green Party supports:

1. Decisions on recreational and sporting facilities and activities being made by local communities.
2. Councils and the Department of Conservation protecting 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.
3. The Minister of Recreation and Sport having 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.
4. The collection of statistics on participation in a broader range of recreational and sporting activities.