



# Summary document for alternate format translations– Outdoor Accessibility Design Guidelines

Adapted in 2025 by Accessible Formats Service,  
Blind Low Vision NZ, Auckland

**Transcriber's Note:** The logo at the top of the page is  
Recreation Aotearoa Te Whai Oranga.

# **Summary document for alternate format translations–Outdoor Accessibility Design Guidelines**

Recreation Aotearoa and the Outdoors Accessibility Working Group have developed Outdoors Accessibility Design Guidelines to improve access to outdoor recreation spaces across Aotearoa New Zealand for all people with impairments and access needs.

Recreation Aotearoa is the national recreation association of New Zealand, supporting professionals to deliver quality recreation experiences, places and facilities.

The working group includes experts in parks, outdoor recreation, accessibility and inclusion. The majority of the working group has a lived experience of disability.

## **Why were the guidelines developed?**

These guidelines respond to a need identified by Recreation Aotearoa members and the disability community.

While many people with impairments want to participate in outdoor recreation more often, Active NZ data shows that disabled people are less likely to be physically active in outdoor settings compared to non-disabled people. This resource provides practical guidance to help recreation

professionals address this gap, alongside their local communities.

## **What do the guidelines cover?**

They offer detailed, practical advice for improving accessibility in outdoor recreation spaces such as beaches, lakes and green open spaces, with a strong focus on tracks and trails. Topics include:

- Processes & planning—Embedding accessibility and inclusion in policies and projects
- Community engagement—Consultation, co-design, and collaboration with the disability community
- Outdoor features—Signage, parking, toilets, picnic areas, drinking fountains, rubbish bins, jetties, fishing pontoons, and duck shooting huts (maimais)
- Trail specifications—Inclusive design guidelines for mountain biking and walking trails

## **Who are they for?**

Anyone involved in planning, developing, designing, managing and maintaining outdoor recreation spaces, and anyone advocating for accessible outdoor recreation spaces.

# How will the guidelines be used?

Accessibility should be considered from the outset of all projects. These guidelines help identify opportunities to improve accessibility in outdoor recreation and serve as an advocacy tool for the disability community.

The resource can be shared with local Councils and land managers as a recommended resource to help enhance accessibility.

Over time, more tracks and trails will be graded using the guidelines. This will provide more information to help make informed decisions about which trails to access.

# Who do we speak to for more information?

You can email [marketing@nzrecreation.org.nz](mailto:marketing@nzrecreation.org.nz) or call 04 801 5598 for more information about the guidelines and how to use them. The full guidelines are available on the Recreation Aotearoa website:

<https://www.nzrecreation.org.nz/outdoor-accessibility-design-guidelines>

**End of Summary document for alternate format translations—Outdoor Accessibility Design Guidelines**