

PARK AREAS

Category	National park (National Parks Act 1980)	Conservation park (Conservation Act 1987)
Purpose	<p>A national park is an area of land (or land and water) containing scenery of such distinctive quality and/or ecological systems or natural features so beautiful, unique or scientifically important that they are of national interest. National parks are considered priceless areas and represent the natural, historical and cultural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand to be protected for future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>Under the National Parks Act 1980, a national park must be maintained in its natural state, and there are restrictions on certain activities. Subject to provisions, the public have freedom of entry and access to all national parks.</p>	<p>An area of land (or land and water) containing predominantly natural systems, managed to ensure long-term protection and maintenance of biological diversity while providing recreational and visitor opportunities.</p>
Selection	<p>Areas selected for national park status are usually of national or international importance and comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relatively large areas, eg tens of thousands of hectares, and preferably contiguous blocks in general, a natural area with nationally significant scenery, ecological systems or natural features. <p>Predominantly natural areas will be considered if they contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> modified areas that can be restored or are capable of regeneration features of significant historical, cultural, archaeological or scientific value features that have no equivalent in an unmodified area in a national park and that are so beautiful, unique or scientifically important they should be protected in a national park. 	<p>Areas of land for conservation park status are of local or regional significance and generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possess a landscape of high scenic quality, with diverse associated habitats and flora and fauna provide opportunities for public enjoyment through outdoor recreation and tourism are at least two-thirds in a natural condition, although they may contain limited commercial or non-commercial plantations are large enough to absorb sustainable and appropriate uses without detriment to their overall long-term natural values.
Additional protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specially protected area – set apart to preserve intact, with minimum of human interference; an area that possesses indigenous plant or animal life or ecological, geological or historical features of significance; must be approved by the Governor-General. Wilderness area – an area of wild land (and/or water) that is diverse in landscape; provides opportunities for physical recreation with minor human influence. Amenities area – small areas that are suitable for the development and operation of recreation and related amenities and services appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the park, eg visitor centre, car park area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specially protected area – set apart to preserve intact, with minimum human interference; an area that possesses indigenous plant or animal life or ecological, geological or historical features of significance; must be approved by the Governor-General. Amenities area – small areas that are suitable for the development and operation of recreation and related amenities and services appropriate for public use and enjoyment of the park, eg visitor centre, car park area.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT PROTECTIONS

Category	Sanctuary (Wildlife Act 1953, Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977)	Wildlife refuge (Wildlife Act 1953, Reserves Act 1977)	Wildlife management reserve (Wildlife Act 1953, Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977)
Purpose	<p>An area of land (or land and water) possessing significant wildlife habitat that is especially susceptible to damage or disturbance by uncontrolled public entry; or outstanding ecosystems, geological or physiological features and/or species available primarily for scientific or other similar purposes.</p> <p>These areas can prohibit or restrict and control public entry and use.</p>	<p>Area of land (or land and water) that provides a haven for any classes of wildlife or possesses important wildlife habitat not otherwise protected.</p> <p>These areas can prohibit or restrict and control entry and use as appropriate.</p> <p>The primary objective is to secure and maintain wildlife habitat conditions necessary to protect the specified classes of wildlife, allowing specific (minimal) human manipulation for optimum management.</p>	<p>Area of land (or land and water) protected for the conservation, management and public appreciation of wildlife.</p> <p>These areas can prohibit or restrict and control entry but generally allow for the taking of game.</p> <p>They enable the development of limited areas for public education and appreciation of the wildlife, habitats and management.</p> <p>These areas can be manipulated for optimum management and may facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring associated with management of the wildlife resource.</p>
Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas should have very high intrinsic value (contain rare or seriously threatened species or habitat). The area is large enough to ensure the integrity of the ecosystem. The area is significantly free of direct human intervention and capable of remaining so. The area's biodiversity can be maintained without substantial active management or manipulation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas may be natural or have modified ecosystems. The size of the area will depend on the wildlife protection requirements and may range widely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas may be natural or have modified ecosystems. The size of the area will depend on the wildlife protection requirements and may range widely. Retention of habitats and species may depend on active intervention by the relevant management authority, if necessary.
Additional protection	<p>This type of protection may overlay an existing protected area status, eg be an identified area within a conservation park.</p>	<p>If this classification is applied over an existing reserve, there will also be protection objectives relating to that classification.</p>	<p>If this classification is applied over an existing protected area, there will also be protection objectives relating to that classification.</p>

RESERVES AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

Category	Historic reserve (Reserves Act 1977)	Scenic reserve (natural) (Reserves Act 1977)	Government purpose reserve (Reserves Act 1977)
Purpose	<p>An area of land (or land and water) possessing places, objects and natural features that are of historic, archaeological, cultural, educational and other special interest.</p> <p>Primarily the management of a historic reserve may focus on the structures, objects and sites so as to illustrate with integrity the history of Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>The public can have freedom of entry and access, subject to such conditions and restrictions as are necessary for the protection and general wellbeing of the reserve; the preservation of indigenous flora, fauna and the natural environment; and for the protection and control of the public using it.</p> <p>There are also secondary objectives around the management and protection of scenic, archaeological, geological, biological or other scientific features or indigenous flora and fauna or wildlife, maintaining the area's value as a soil, water and forest conservation area.</p>	<p>An area of land (or land and water) possessing significant qualities of scenic interest or beauty or significant natural features or landscapes.</p> <p>These areas should be managed for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, enjoyment and use of the public.</p> <p>These areas should preserve indigenous flora and fauna, biological associations and the natural environment and exterminate exotic flora and fauna as far as possible.</p> <p>The public should have freedom of entry and access subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection and well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it.</p> <p>Secondarily to the above, some portions may be developed for amenities and facilities where these are necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve.</p> <p>Management and protection are also extended to any other values that the area may contain, eg archaeological, geological, biological or other scientific features, etc.</p>	<p>An area of land (or land and water) suitable for a specified government purpose that does not duplicate any other reserve purpose.</p> <p>The primary objectives for these reserves are determined by the purpose for which they are defined.</p> <p>These areas may also be administered under another Act or Acts when another Minister is appointed to control and manage them.</p> <p>Access may be prohibited to the whole or part of the reserve except by permit where appropriate, eg if it is a government building.</p> <p>Where there are other values identified, eg scenic, historic, archaeological, etc, these are also protected to the extent that they can be managed with the primary purpose of the reserve.</p>
Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas should be sufficiently large to preserve all the significant historic or archaeological features associated with the place, object or natural feature. The area should include sufficient additional land as a buffer against incompatible development or as unobtrusive sites for necessary services for management and public use. The primary value should be traditional, historic or archaeological (through an association with major events or Māori traditions). The area should have immediate interest to the visitor or be important as a key for continuing research and interpretation of New Zealand history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas should contain one or more natural or associated cultural or heritage feature of special significance or natural landscape of high scenic quality. The area should be large enough to protect the integrity of the features and its immediately related surroundings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on purpose (but generally small, modified areas). May be used for government assets (buildings). Generally restricted in the case of new reserves to conservation - related purposes, eg wildlife refuge.

RESERVES AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

Category	Nature reserve (Reserves Act 1977)	Scientific reserve (Reserves Act 1977)	Ecological area (Conservation Act 1987)
Purpose	<p>An area of land (or land and water) possessing indigenous flora or fauna or natural features that are of special public interest in terms of rarity, scientific interest or importance or uniqueness.</p> <p>These areas preserve and protect areas as far as possible in a natural state, indigenous flora and fauna, ecological associations and the natural environment.</p> <p>Exotic flora and fauna should be exterminated as far as possible.</p> <p>Entry for these areas is permitted under controls that protect and preserve the flora and fauna in a natural state.</p>	<p>An area of land (or land and water) possessing ecological associations, plant or animal communities, types of soil, geomorphological phenomena and like matters of special interest for scientific study, research, education and the benefit of the country.</p> <p>These areas preserve indigenous flora and fauna, and where appropriate, part or all may be manipulated for experimental purposes or to gain further scientific knowledge.</p> <p>These areas can prohibit or restrict and control general entry to the whole or part of the area, permitting only persons with the necessary credentials or qualifications to enter for study or management purposes.</p>	<p>An area of land protected primarily for its scientific, particularly ecological, value. The scientific value for which each ecological area is held is to be specified when the area is declared.</p> <p>These areas protect natural processes and genetic pools for indigenous plants and animals. They can be used as areas for natural benchmarks for assessing changes associated with various forms of development within a region.</p> <p>Areas can be manipulated and used for increasing public awareness and may allow recreation uses, where consistent with the specified value and appropriate to the setting.</p>
Selection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas should be at least two-thirds in a natural condition, although they may contain limited areas of modified ecosystems. The area should be large enough to absorb sustainable scientific and related uses without detriment to its overall long-term natural values. The area should possess features of special interest for scientific study, research, education and like uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for scientific reserve but with an emphasis on representativeness.

RESERVES AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

Category	Scenic reserve (modified) (Reserves Act 1977)	Recreation reserve (Reserves Act 1977)	Local purpose reserve (Reserves Act 1977)
Purpose	<p>A suitable area of land (or land and water) that by development and the introduction of flora, whether indigenous or exotic, will become of significant scenic interest or beauty.</p> <p>These areas preserve the indigenous flora and fauna, biological associations and natural environment and beauty as far as possible and, as appropriate, exterminate exotic fauna and (to the extent consistent with the purpose) exotic flora as far as possible.</p> <p>However, these areas may be developed, eg open portions for amenities and facilities where necessary to enable the public to obtain benefit and enjoyment from the reserve or for managed regeneration/planting development to enhance the scenic qualities of the area.</p> <p>The public have freedom of entry and access subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for the protection and well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it. (Secondary)</p>	<p>An area of land (or land and water) possessing open space, and outdoor recreational values especially suitable for recreation and sporting activities and the physical welfare and enjoyment of the public and for the protection of the natural environment and beauty of the countryside, including recreational tracks in the countryside.</p> <p>Public freedom of entry and access subject to such conditions as are necessary for the protection and well-being of the reserve and for the protection and control of the public using it.</p> <p>Management objectives for these areas are to conserve those qualities that contribute to the pleasantness, harmony and cohesion of the natural environment and to the better use and enjoyment of the reserve.</p> <p>Where there are other values identified, eg scenic, historic, archaeological, etc, these are also protected to the extent that they can be managed with the primary purpose of the reserve.</p>	<p>An area of land (or land and water) suitable for a specified local educational or community purpose that does not duplicate any other reserve purpose.</p> <p>Management objectives are determined by the purpose, which must be defined when the area is classified.</p> <p>Depending on the purpose identified, access may be prohibited to the whole or any part of the reserve except by permit where appropriate.</p> <p>Where there are other values identified, eg scenic, historic, archaeological, etc, these are also protected to the extent that they can be managed with the primary purpose of the reserve.</p>
Selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degraded natural or semi-natural areas where the public interest warrants restoration or conversion as a scenic attraction. The area will generally be small. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such areas may be totally modified (eg suitable for sports fields). The area may be in a partly natural condition (eg suitable for picnics or camp sites or like development). The area may be lineal (suitable for recreational walking and/or vehicle use). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depends on purpose (but generally very small, modified areas).