

ELECTION PROGRAMME



2020 – 2026
Safe – Livable – Green

Introduction

For decades, the VVD has stood for reliable, stable and realistic governance in Amstelveen. The VVD Amstelveen is convinced that our city will only remain an attractive and livable municipality if growth, facilities and quality of life are handled with care. The VVD therefore chooses a pragmatic, forward-looking course: building a municipality where people feel at home, with sufficient green space, good accessibility, safe neighborhoods and room for personal development.

For the VVD, the starting point is clear: the municipality exists for its residents, not the other way around. That is why the party strives for a service-oriented local government that stays close to its residents, clearly explains its decisions and handles public funds responsibly. At a time when national pressure on municipalities is increasing, the VVD wants Amstelveen to continue charting its own course. The party chooses sound governance, cooperation where necessary, but independence as the guiding principle. With this programme, the VVD aims to build an Amstelveen in the coming administrative period where space, freedom, quality and responsibility remain central.

1. Keeping Your Amstelveen Safe

Safety is at the core of good governance for the VVD. Amstelveen is one of the safest medium-sized municipalities in the Netherlands, and it must remain so. To achieve this, the party advocates more neighborhood-oriented policing, additional enforcement officers, and modern technology such as smart cameras at access roads. Burglaries, bicycle theft and organized crime will be actively tackled, including through the BIBOB Act and combating fraudulent occupancy.

Road safety, especially around schools, sports clubs and shopping areas, must be improved. Parents, schools and the municipality must work together to prevent unsafe situations during school drop-off and pick-up times. The rise of electric bicycles and scooters also requires better enforcement and clear rules. The VVD also wants young people to receive active education at school about drugs, (cyber)crime and its consequences. Amstelveen must remain a place where everyone—regardless of background or gender—feels free and safe in public spaces.

Focus on:

- Safe living environment
- Road safety
- Safety in public spaces
- Digital safety
- School safety
- Safety for entrepreneurs
- Societal resilience

2. Spacious & Green Living in Your Amstelveen

Amstelveen is an attractive place to live, but pressure on the housing market is high. The VVD therefore advocates sensible growth while preserving the green and spacious character of the city. Instead of uncontrolled expansion, the VVD opts for urban renewal and revitalization of existing neighborhoods. Quality is central, not quantity. Housing must be built for Amstelveen residents, particularly first-time buyers, seniors and people in essential professions.

Owner-occupied housing, especially affordable purchase housing, will take priority over social rental housing. The party aims to increase the share of owner-occupied homes toward the national average. Building heights will generally be limited to five residential floors, with some exceptions around the Stadshart and the A9 motorway. Water nuisance must be actively addressed, foundation problems tackled, and more space created for temporary housing for urgent cases and divorced parents. Parking pressure must not be shifted to existing neighborhoods; parking close to home remains a key principle.

Focus on:

- Direction in urban development
- Urban renewal and vital neighborhoods
- Balanced ratio between rental and owner-occupied housing
- Temporary housing for temporary stays
- Lower financial thresholds for first-time buyers
- Building in keeping with Amstelveen's character
- Preventing external parking pressure
- Keeping sports fields central

3. Boundless Entrepreneurship in Amstelveen

Entrepreneurs are the engine of Amstelveen's economy. The VVD wants these entrepreneurs—from small self-employed professionals to international companies—to be optimally facilitated. The municipality must be service-oriented, issue permits quickly and limit regulations to what is strictly necessary. It is important that sufficient space remains for business activities and that neighborhood shopping centers remain attractive for both entrepreneurs and residents.

The VVD wants special attention for skilled trades such as bicycle repairers, installers and plumbers, which are essential to the local economy. Start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs must also be supported through municipal initiatives and participation in regional funds. The Stadshart will be actively promoted, and entrepreneurs will have a stronger voice in the City Fund. Entrepreneurs who contribute to employment and social value will be encouraged, including through lower local taxes and smart cooperation with education and healthcare institutions.

Focus on:

- Space for entrepreneurs
- Low local taxes
- Fewer regulations
- Preserving neighborhood shopping centers
- A contributing city fund
- Making use of subsidies
- Investing in local entrepreneurs who contribute to the Amstelveen economy

4. Endless Relaxation and Experiences in a Vibrant Amstelveen

Amstelveen should not only be a place to live, but also a place to relax and enjoy. The VVD wants to invest in a broad cultural and recreational offering, focusing on what residents value most. The Stadshart will be further developed into a vibrant cultural center with space for hospitality, evening programming and festivals. Other locations—such as Kronenburg/Uilenstede and the Amstelveense Poel—also offer opportunities for relaxation, music, hospitality and youth culture.

Culture must be accessible to everyone. The VVD supports initiatives by cultural entrepreneurs, but subsidies are not automatic and must be periodically evaluated for effectiveness. Recreation in nature will be supported, provided natural values are respected. Amstelveen should stimulate day tourism without causing nuisance. This also includes space for young people: from chill-out areas to a party café with extended opening hours and more events for secondary school students.

Focus on:

- Nightlife and culture for Amstelveen residents
- A lively Stadshart
- Plans for Oude Dorp and the northern Poel shoreline
- Space for hospitality venues
- More activities for young people
- Strong museums
- Nature for everyone

5. Healthy Exercise in a Sporty Amstelveen

The VVD believes that investing in sports means investing in health, connection and enjoyment. Sports facilities must remain close to residents, and building on sports fields is firmly rejected. The Green Sports Heart of Amstelveen—around Sportlaan—must be preserved and strengthened. There is a need for additional swimming facilities, sports halls and multifunctional sports centers, and the municipality must actively invest in these.

Sports must be accessible to everyone: from children to seniors, from team sports to individual activities such as running or urban sports. Attention will be given to outdoor swimming, additional walking and cycling routes, and exercise parks. Students and young people should be able to participate in sports at a discount. Sports clubs will be supported in their continuity and quality. Together with schools and community centers, the VVD wants to structurally link sports to education, youth care and welfare initiatives.

Focus on:

- Making sports available for everyone
- Active support for sports clubs
- Sport is not an afterthought
- Strengthening the Sports Heart for indoor and outdoor sports
- More outdoor sports
- More water sports

6. Protecting Your Wallet

The VVD wants Amstelveen to remain financially healthy, now and in the future. This means no structural spending without structural coverage and no shifting of burdens to future generations. Major investments may only be made if well substantiated and within existing financial capacity. The VVD strives for a debt-free municipality, where property tax (OZB) increases for residents are limited to inflation. Parking revenues must not be used for general expenditures but for improving parking facilities.

Public funds must be spent responsibly. The municipality must work efficiently, with less bureaucracy and a clear budget. Every municipal project must be critically assessed in advance for usefulness, necessity and feasibility. Transparency and regular accountability to the council and residents are essential. Cooperation within the Metropolitan Region Amsterdam (MRA) remains important but must never lead to a loss of autonomy. Amstelveen remains independent and safeguards its own priorities, including financially.

Focus on:

- Careful use of public funds
- A debt-free municipality
- Low local taxes for residents and businesses
- Periodic accountability for major projects
- More efficient youth care and social support (WMO)
- Participation in the MRA on the basis of equality

7. Sustainable Without Pressure in a Green Amstelveen

The VVD chooses a sustainable future, but without coercion. Sustainable choices should be encouraged, not imposed. The party opposes mandatory connections to district heating networks or disconnecting neighborhoods from gas without residents' consent. Instead, the VVD wants to continue collective schemes for insulation, solar panels and energy-efficient installations. It will also investigate whether subsidizing home energy storage batteries is feasible.

Nature conservation is also a priority. Existing green spaces must be protected and strengthened, and new construction projects must contribute to greening neighborhoods. Amstelveen must play an active role in preventing heat stress by greening paved surfaces and stimulating community gardens. Litter and microplastics will be actively tackled with additional waste bins, monitoring and public awareness campaigns. The VVD also wants sufficient capacity on the electricity grid so that residents and businesses are not hindered in their sustainability efforts. For those without private driveways, practical solutions must be found to charge cars at home, for example through cable ducts in sidewalks.

Focus on:

- A green Amstelveen
- Realistic energy transition
- Clean living environment
- Preventing heat stress
- Reducing nuisance from pests
- Youth-focused energy coach
- Possibility to charge cars at the doorstep
- Sufficient electricity grid capacity
- Recycling shop and local waste station in Kronenburg

8. Participating in Our Society, Proud and Careful with Our Freedom

The VVD stands for a society in which everyone who can work, does work. Benefits are intended as a temporary safety net and must be accompanied by efforts to return to the labor market. The municipality has an active coordinating role in this. Those who cannot work will of course be supported. At the same time, the VVD wants strict action against abuse of schemes and stacking of subsidies.

The party rejects target-group policies and thinks in terms of individuals, not origin or religion. Integration means participation: speaking the language, abiding by the rules and contributing to society. The municipality must actively guide newcomers in civic integration, with emphasis on language skills and social participation. Organizations that promote segregation or intolerance will not receive subsidies. Attention will also be given to combating antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, ensuring women's safety, and combating honor-related violence and femicide. Amstelveen must be an inclusive municipality where freedom and equality before the law are central.

Focus on:

- A tolerant society in which everyone participates
- A secular community with full equality between men and women
- Everyone who can work, works
- Integration: speaking the language and contributing
- Policies aimed at giving children a good start
- Historical awareness, starting with youth
- Effective social schemes

9. An Accessible Amstelveen

Good mobility is essential for a vital municipality. The VVD wants people to move freely as they wish: by bicycle, car, scooter or public transport. Infrastructure must be adjusted in time when new neighborhoods are developed. Every resident must be able to park in their own neighborhood. Parking standards must be realistic and aligned with actual use. Underground parking garages are a good solution where possible. Shared mobility, such as shared scooters and bicycles, must be regulated to prevent nuisance.

The VVD advocates a public transport hub at the Stadshart with better connections, a guarded bicycle parking facility and space for shared mobility. East-west connections within Amstelveen must be improved, and the night network should be expanded with good connections to Amsterdam. Regarding Schiphol, the VVD supports the importance of a well-functioning airport but sets limits on nuisance. There must be a ban on night flights, and Schiphol must contribute to livability in Amstelveen. Cleaner aircraft, better monitoring data and investments in compensation are necessary.

Focus on:

- Building in conjunction with infrastructure
- Public transport hub at the Stadshart
- Space for the car
- Good public transport
- Controlled shared mobility
- Cleaner and quieter aviation
- Schiphol's contribution to Amstelveen's quality of life through a Schiphol Fund

10. Affordable & Efficient Care for Amstelveen Residents

The municipality plays an important role in providing care and support to residents who need it. The VVD wants care to be accessible and efficient, with a strong focus on prevention. Youth care must be organized more efficiently, with short lines of communication and quick help for those who truly need it. Waiting times in youth mental health care (GGZ) must be reduced, including through practice support staff and group treatments where possible.

Schools should pay attention to mental health, healthy nutrition and parenting themes such as screen use. For seniors, prevention programs are needed focusing on exercise, social contacts and dementia. The municipality must also ensure sufficient healthcare facilities in neighborhoods so people can receive help close to home. The VVD supports initiatives for hospices, informal caregiver support and volunteer work in healthcare. Care funds should go directly to helping residents, not to unnecessary overhead or complex regulations.

Focus on:

- Prevention is better than cure
- Efficient youth care
- Reducing waiting lists in youth mental health care
- A local GP for everyone
- A strong Amstelland hospital
- Active municipal healthcare policy
- Hospices for a dignified final phase of life

11. A Strong Foundation for Our Youth

The VVD believes every child in Amstelveen should be able to attend a suitable school within the municipality. Lotteries for school placement must be avoided, and schools should remain safe, small-scale and accessible. The municipality must work with neighboring municipalities to ensure sufficient educational capacity, and children should attend school in their own neighborhood as much as possible. Childcare and after-school care must align well with parents' working hours and preferably be located close to schools.



Sports and culture are part of broad development. During school hours, children should be able to use sports facilities and become acquainted with different sports. The VVD wants young people to learn about health, history (such as WWII and the Holocaust), and personal development. International families should be actively involved in education and school life. Finally, the VVD wants more attention for vocational education, internships and alignment between education and the labor market so that young people are well prepared for the future.

Focus on:

- A safe learning environment for everyone
- Every Amstelveen child attending school in Amstelveen
- Sufficient and appropriate childcare
- Making efficient use of sports facilities
- Attention to European history education
- Active involvement of internationals in education