

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Henderson Police Department
Community Relations Bureau



Disclaimer

No CPTED recommendations can positively ensure or guarantee a crime free environment.

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What is CPTED?

The **proper** design and **effective** use of the built environment can lead to the **reduction** in the incidence and fear of crime and thereby **improve the quality of life**.

In other words, if a site is laid out well, the likelihood of it being targeted for a crime may be reduced

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CPTED Strategies

- ❖ Natural Surveillance
- ❖ Territorial Reinforcement
- ❖ Natural Access Control
- ❖ Maintenance

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Strategies – Natural Surveillance

- ❖ Design the space to allow visibility by legitimate users and keep possible intruders under observation
- ❖ Make the offender's behavior more easily noticeable
- ❖ Examples
 - ❖ Windowed Stairwells
 - ❖ Provide a good visual connection between residential and/or commercial units and public environments such as streets, common areas, parks, sidewalks, parking areas and alleys.

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Strategies – Natural Surveillance

The open design of the stairs and guardrail allows the parking to be under constant surveillance by anyone leaving or looking out of their apartment



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Strategies – Natural Surveillance

The windows allow patrons to observe any activity on the street around the business



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Strategies – Natural Surveillance

Properly selected, installed and maintained landscaping allows for unobstructed views of otherwise vulnerable doors and windows



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Strategies – Territorial Reinforcement

Territorial reinforcement is marking territorial control of a space while discouraging potential offenders who perceive this control and avoid it

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Strategies – Territorial Reinforcement

- ❖ Territorial reinforcement employs such design elements as sidewalks, landscaping, and porches to help distinguish between public and private areas and helps users exhibit signs of “ownership” that send “hands off” messages to would-be offenders
- ❖ People take more interest in something they own or when they feel intrinsically involved



Strategies – Territorial Reinforcement

Accentuate building entrances with architectural elements to guide visitors and announce the transition from public space to private space



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Strategies – Territorial Reinforcement

Use front porches and stoops between the street/sidewalk and residences to indicate transitions



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Strategies – Territorial Reinforcement

Identify shops with wall signs and address numbers at the rear if parking is provided at the rear



Natural Access Control

- ❖ Natural access control employs elements like doors, shrubs, fences, and gates to deny admission to a crime target and to create a perception among offenders that there is a risk in selecting the target.
- ❖ The primary thrust of an access control strategy is to deny access to a crime target



Natural Access Control

- ❖ Physical and mechanical means of access control—locks, bars, and alarms can supplement natural access control measures if needed
- ❖ For example, a fence around a neighborhood playground protects children from wandering off and inhibits entry of potential offenders



Natural Access Control

Use fences, walkways and landscaping to direct visitors to the proper entrance and away from private areas.



Natural Access Control

Install plantings and architectural design features such as columned gateway to guide visitors to desired entrances



Natural Access Control

Use signs to direct visitors to appropriate buildings, entrances and parking



Natural Access Control

Limit access without completely disconnecting the neighborhood from adjacent neighborhoods



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Maintenance

- ❖ Maintenance, including cleaning, repairing and landscaping, needs to be performed routinely to encourage use of the space for the intended purpose and discourage abnormal and criminal use.
- ❖ Maintenance sends a clean signal that someone cares about the space and is likely to defend it against intruders or vandals



Maintenance

Keep all structures, including fencing and walkways, clean and in good repair



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Maintenance

Keep all litter and trash
picked up at all times



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Maintenance

- ❖ Keep trees and shrubs trimmed back from windows, doors and walkways.
- ❖ Keep shrubs trimmed to 3 feet and prune lower branches of trees up to 7 feet



Lighting

- ❖ Lighting is an important element in any site design. Whether a single house or a shopping mall, appropriate lighting techniques should be used
- ❖ Good lighting will help people to feel more comfortable with their surroundings
- ❖ It should provide clear paths for movement and highlight entryways without creating harsh effects or shadowy hiding places



Lighting

- ❖ Design lighting system for pedestrians that enables people to better see one another and reduce the potential risks of nighttime walks
- ❖ Keep pedestrian lighting out of trees



Landscaping

Planting of landscape material should allow for an open line of sight between area frequented by residents and potential crime targets, limiting hiding places where criminal activity can occur



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Landscaping

Provide see-through decorative fencing that is durable and does not create hiding places for criminals



Something to Think About...

If 76% of house burglaries occur through forced entry on rear entrances, why is it we always have our biggest and best locks on the front door?

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Questions?



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