

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Help create safe and thriving communities with site specific design, alterations, and care.



How you design, care for, and use an area can enhance the quality of life and help to create safer communities.

[Contact Community Safety Coordinators for an Assessment](#)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Enhances safety by influencing the physical design of our environment and encouraging positive social interaction. CPTED recognizes that our environment directly affects our behavior, whether or not we are aware of it, because we constantly respond to what is around us. These responses help us to interact safely in our communities.

A place designed using CPTED principles reduces opportunities for criminal behavior. CPTED uses many different strategies that work together to create safer communities.

There are three basic principles



Surveillance

We are likely to feel safer when we can see and be seen. Natural surveillance guides the placement of features such as windows, lighting, and landscaping in such a way as to maximize visibility of the space and its users. Activities that bring neighbors together, such as a block party or intersection painting help create visible social interaction on the street. Planning for transportation amenities that increase pedestrian and bicycle traffic can also be beneficial. Installing security equipment such as cameras is another surveillance feature.

Access Control

Natural access control guides how people enter and leave a space through the placement of entrances, exits, fences, landscaping, lighting, traffic signs, and speed bumps. It can limit access or control flow and help with safety by deterring access to potential targets and creating a perception of risk for would-be offenders. Another example of access control includes entry keys to open gates and mailboxes.

Territoriality

Physical boundaries distinguish public from private spaces and define the expectation of the space and how it is to be used. An example of natural territoriality can be community benches that encourage people to sit and use the space. Territorial reinforcement can be created using landscaping, pavement designs, gateway treatments, signs, and fences.

Two more ideas that support CPTED

Maintenance

A well-maintained site, building, or park creates a sense of responsibility and care. Neglected areas can have a negative effect on how people use the space. An example is immediate removal of graffiti or repairing a broken fence.

Community Interaction

When we encourage positive activities in public spaces including streets by residents and visitors, we can help reduce crime or the fear of crime.

CPTED assessments include businesses, apartments, single family homes, and public spaces. To request a free safety assessment please go to www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/cp.

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