

Fact Sheet

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Logan City Council is committed to using principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

What is CPTED?

CPTED (pronounced sep-ted) provides a common-sense approach to designing environments (new or redeveloped) in ways that help to create safer spaces and reduce crime.

CPTED can be applied to any built environment or facility. For example, parks, toilet blocks, public areas, shopping centres, car parks and even residential dwellings.

Implementing CPTED principles will not always eliminate crime but it is one of many different techniques that Council uses in a holistic approach to crime prevention.

How does CPTED work?

There are six key elements of CPTED:

1. Surveillance



The ability to 'see' and 'be seen' at all

times within an environment.

People using an area or space provide 'surveillance'. The more people that are using an area providing 'surveillance', the less opportunity there is for someone to commit a crime without being seen.

It is important that people providing surveillance can see an area easily and are provided with a clear line of sight.

You can enhance surveillance by:

- Trimming and maintaining landscaping and vegetation.
- Ensuring lighting is suitable and provides good visibility at night.
- Creating activity in a place to generate surveillance by more people (for example movies in the park, picnic in the park).

2. Legibility



Legibility is about being able to easily find your way around an environment.

A design is said to be legible if it is designed in a way that allows people to

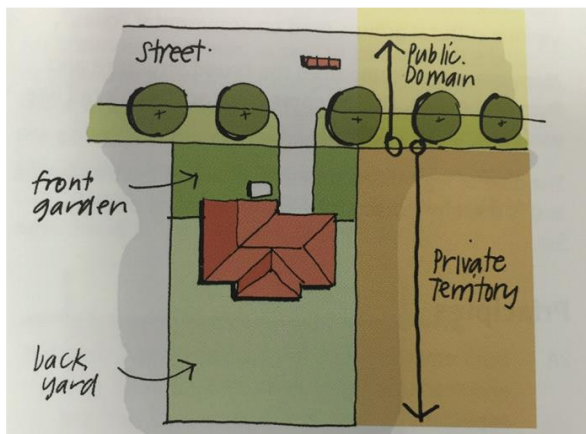
easily know where they are going and how to get there.

Legibility gives confidence to people using a space. For example, if a place is legible a user is less likely to get lost and feel vulnerable or unsafe.

You can enhance legibility by:

- Designing areas so they are easy to understand and navigate.
- Making pedestrian routes easily accessible and identifiable (e.g. paved walkways).
- Using signage to help people find their way.

3. Territoriality



It is important for a person's sense of control that other people not trespass on 'their territory' without invitation. It is equally important for people to be aware of another person's territory and not trespass accidentally.

To help with this, it is important to define clear boundaries between private (e.g. residential) and public (e.g. a community park) space.

You can enhance territoriality by:

- Designing and managing spaces so that boundaries are easy to define.
- Creatively using built and landscaping features like planting, changes of material and texture, artwork, signage, low walls and seating to define borders.

When creating territoriality you should try to not use anything that might reduce surveillance, such as a large concrete wall.

4. Ownership

Crucial to the success of CPTED is the community taking 'ownership' of public spaces and feeling empowered to respond to situations in a way that will enhance the safety and security of the community.

People are more likely to 'protect' a space if they have a connection and respect for that space.

You can enhance ownership by:

- Engaging with the community in the design process of a new space.
- Using design such as low fencing, benches and paving patterns/materials to encourage use.
- Designing and managing spaces to create opportunities for social contact amongst the community.

5. Management

Public places that are poorly maintained and appear to lack ownership have an increased vulnerability to crime and for inappropriate behaviour to occur. For example, damage caused to abandoned buildings.

Even when places are looked after, continuous care needs to be taken to routinely maintain some of the important CPTED qualities of places. For example, ensuring signage is not obstructed by the growth of vegetation.

Maintaining the physical appearance of a space encourages people to respect their surroundings.

You can enhance management by:

- Designing places with sturdy materials and fittings that are not flimsy, fragile or easily removed.
- Implementing a system for the regular removal of rubbish and the maintenance of lighting, signage, landscaping, equipment and other elements of the space.
- Regularly reviewing the space to identify changing or new CPTED issues and review the effectiveness of management systems in place and identify opportunities for improvement.



6. Vulnerability

Some situations, locations and the time of day can make people feel more vulnerable to crime.

Isolated or hidden places can provide opportunities for crime and increase a users perception of being more vulnerable to crime.

The design and management of a space should respond to both real and perceived vulnerability.

You can decrease vulnerability by paying particular attention to:

- Reducing the risks associated with potentially vulnerable places such as ATMs, 24 hour shops and service stations, large parks and pedestrian/cyclist networks.
- Reducing isolated or poorly-lit places, particularly where the activities and movements of people are easily predicted.
- Designing landscaping, walls, fences, buildings, passages, bridges, tunnels and street furniture to avoid creating concealment spots, blind spots or bends which can limit surveillance and reduce choices.

Useful safety contacts

Policelink: 131 444
Emergencies (Triple zero): 000
Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000
Hoon hotline: 134 666

More Information:

3412 3412
council@logan.qld.gov.au
logan.qld.gov.au