

Fact Sheet

Keeping Our Parks Safe

The best way to keep our parks safe is to ensure the community feel a sense of ownership and are able to make full use of the park.

If people have connection and respect for a park, they are more likely to have a sense of ownership. People need to feel empowered to respond to situations in a way that will enhance the safety and security of the community.

Conducting an audit of your local park

The Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles of surveillance, legibility, territoriality, ownership, management and vulnerability provide a common-sense approach which help to create safer places and can reduce the opportunity for crime to occur.

These 6 principles are relevant to keeping our parks safe and can be used by the community when walking through their local park or community space to assess whether there are any safety concerns or maintenance issues that need to be reported.

Surveillance – is the ability to see and be seen at all times within an environment. The more people that are using an area providing natural surveillance, may mean there is less opportunity for anti-social behaviour to occur without being noticed.

- Can you clearly see into the park or open space from the street or neighbouring properties? Can you see the street and neighbouring properties from within the park?
- Is there any overgrown vegetation obstructing visibility along the pathways or other areas within the park?
- Can all the communal areas such as playgrounds and car parks be easily seen?
- Does the area encourage a variety of activities for example exercise equipment, barbecue area and walking tracks?
- Can the area be seen after dark? Please note that not all parks have lighting as Council only want to attract people if there are legitimate evening activities available in the park.

Legibility - is being able to easily find your way around a location such as a park. If a place is legible, a user is less likely to get lost and feel vulnerable or unsafe.

- Are the pathways easy to follow?
- Are there signs at the entry points advising the name of the park and directing users to facilities such as a dog park?



Territoriality – the definition between private (e.g. residential) and public (e.g. a park) space. It is important for a person's sense of control for other people to not trespass on their territory without invitation. It is equally important for people to avoid embarrassment or incident by being aware of another person's territory and not trespass accidentally.

- Are buildings and spaces clearly defined between private and public space through signage or built environment?

For a copy of the Community Park Safety Audit tick sheet, please visit logan.qld.gov.au/safe_places_spaces

Ownership - people are more likely to respect a space if they have a sense of ownership and connection. People are more likely to take positive action to ensure the safety and security of their space.

- Is a sense of community pride present when assessing the area? For example, no signs of litter or graffiti.

- Is the area designed and managed to create a sense of community interaction? For example, barbecue areas and playgrounds etc.

Management - public places that are poorly maintained and appear to be unused or neglected have an increased vulnerability to crime and inappropriate behaviour occurring.

Even when places are looked after, continuous care needs to be taken to routinely maintain some of the important qualities, 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.

- Is the playground equipment and other park furniture of good quality and well placed?
- Is there any damage to any of the park equipment or tagging and/or graffiti?
- Is there any illegal dumping or excessive rubbish in the park?



Vulnerability - some locations such as isolated or hidden places, may result in some people feeling vulnerable.

- Are there any potential hiding places throughout the area? For example, overgrown or dense vegetation can provide hidey holes allowing someone to be hidden from sight.
- Is the area designed to reduce areas of vulnerability? For example, vegetation is trimmed and there are clear lines of sight.

Reporting maintenance or damage

Report any of the following issues to Logan City Council on 3412 3412 or email council@logan.qld.gov.au.

- Overgrown vegetation.
- Graffiti.
- Rubbish.
- Damage to Council property.

Online: logan.qld.gov.au/online-services

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

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