

Fact Sheet

Keeping our Community Facilities Safe

The best way to protect our city's community facilities is to identify, assess and put strategies in place to help reduce the risk of our organisations or clubs being impacted by crime.

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 reduces the opportunities for crime to occur.

By using these 6 principles, you can conduct an audit of your facilities and green space/sporting fields to identify 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.

Visible security measures along with natural surveillance by staff or volunteers and the public increases the risk to offenders and may deter them from targeting your club.

- Can you clearly see the clubhouse or buildings from the street or neighbouring properties? Can you see

the street and neighbouring properties from your buildings?

- Is there any overgrown vegetation obstructing visibility along the pathways or other areas around your clubhouse or buildings?
- Can all the communal areas such as public toilets and car parks be easily seen?
- Can the area be seen clearly after dark? Are there any areas adjacent to your clubhouse/ buildings that are poorly lit which may increase the vulnerability of those attending the facility at night?
- Consider installing CCTV cameras and have these connected to an external hard drive device to ensure any incidents are recorded.



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 to the clubhouse/buildings and through the grounds easy to follow?
- Are there signs at the entry points advising the name of the club or organisation and directing users to the facilities or nearby locations?

Territoriality – the definition between private and public space.

- Are buildings and spaces clearly defined between private and public space through signage, landscaping or fencing?
- Is the fencing surrounding the playing fields in good condition?

Ownership - people are more likely to respect a space if they sense a connection and have ownership of a space. People need to feel empowered to respond to situations in a way that will enhance the safety and security of the community.

- Is a sense of community pride present when assessing the area? (e.g. no litter or graffiti)
- Is the area designed and managed to create a sense of community interaction? (e.g. playgrounds or BBQ facilities)

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.

- Are the buildings, sporting and other areas of good quality and well maintained?
- Is the area free of graffiti and/or tagging with no visible damage to infrastructure? Is the areas free of excessive rubbish?

There are many measures you can take to physically safeguard your premises including:

- Fitting good quality deadlocks or other security locks to your windows and doors.
- Installing sensor lights on the exterior of the building.
- If your facility is vandalised or tagged with graffiti, remove tags and repair damage as soon as possible.
- Ensure outside equipment and furniture are secured and brought inside after hours to prevent their theft or damage.
- If you have a canteen area, are the roller shutters strong enough to resist the potential for them to be damaged or opened if forced?
- Is alcohol out of sight after hours and/or a lock installed on fridges when not in use?
- Cash handling – count cash out of sight and in a secure area and/or encourage the use of EFTPOS to limit the amount of cash held on the premises.

Make use of signage and stickers, both inside and outside your business to promote proactive security measures such as:

- Minimal cash kept on premises
- Premises under surveillance

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 vulnerability? For example, is vegetation trimmed and are there clear sightlines?
- If so, consider what steps can be taken to reduce this. For example, trimming vegetation and ensuring clear sightlines.

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

Reporting maintenance issues or damage to Council facilities

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
logan.qld.gov.au