



## Preventing Crime

The Planning and Development Department can partner with the Police Department during the plan review process to identify areas of a site that may cause crime. By identifying these areas, we can work with the owner or developer to make changes to the design of a building or development that may prevent crime before it happens. This saves the owner money in the long run because they don't have to make changes to their site after the building is finished. It also makes the City safer for its citizens.

In addition to the information provided in this brochure, we use a checklist, available at [www.cityofrockhill.com](http://www.cityofrockhill.com) (search: "CPTED"), to help identify problem areas and offer solutions to help prevent or reduce crime.



For more information contact:  
Damien Williams, Crime Analyst  
City of Rock Hill Police Department  
(803) 326-3753  
[www.cityofrockhill.com](http://www.cityofrockhill.com)



## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)



### How Can I Prevent or Reduce Crime at My Business?



## What is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design?

Crime prevention through environmental design is an approach to problem-solving that considers environmental conditions and the opportunities they offer for crime or other unintended and undesirable behaviors. CPTED attempts to reduce or eliminate those opportunities by using elements of the environment to control access, provide opportunities to see and be seen, and define ownership and encourage the maintenance of territory.



### Natural Surveillance

#### *What is Natural Surveillance?*

Natural surveillance increases the threat of apprehension by taking steps to increase the perception that people can be seen. Natural surveillance occurs by designing the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way as to maximize visibility and foster positive social interaction among legitimate users of private and public space. Potential offenders will feel increased scrutiny and limitations on their escape routes.

- Do not tint windows, especially at entrances. This will allow for surveillance opportunities both from within and from outside the building.
- Consider using convex mirrors to allow employees to monitor blind spots and unmonitored areas inside the building.
- Advertisements and/or displays should not be



This photo provides a good example of natural surveillance. Notice how the false windows make you feel as if someone is watching.



This parking area is very secluded. The side and rear of this building would have been a good location for false windows.

located in and around windows. If advertisements must be used, keep them small in size and locate them along the top of the windows.



This gas station does a good job of keeping the windows clear of advertisements. The windows are not tinted. This allows customers to see in the store and employees to see outside.

### Natural Access Control

#### *What is Natural Access Control?*

Natural access control limits the opportunity for crime by taking steps to clearly differentiate between public space and private space. By selectively placing entrances and exits, fencing, lighting and landscape to limit access or control flow, natural access occurs.

- Provide access control on all exterior doors.
- Limit access that deliveries and customers have into the building. Side and rear doors should not be unlocked or propped open for any reason.
- Post hours of operation in visible locations for customer safety.
- Limit access to any office areas where money or valuable merchandise are stored.

### Territoriality

#### *What is Territoriality?*

Territoriality is the use of physical attributes that express ownership.

- Fencing or landscaping should be used to define any exterior dining areas and limit access points.

- Use signs or bollards to define the property or entrances.
- Differentiate the site from adjoining properties by utilizing different pavement markings, awnings, signs, landscaping materials, etc.

### Activity Support

#### *What is Activity Support?*

Activity support is the placement of activities where individuals become part of the natural surveillance.

- Outdoor dining areas provide additional visibility and surveillance opportunities.
- Locate customer/business activities near areas of high visibility such as near restrooms, seating areas, etc.



### Maintenance

#### *How can maintaining my property prevent crime?*

Maintenance is an expression of ownership of property. Deterioration indicates less control by the intended users of a site and indicate a greater tolerance of disorder.

- Maintain the site. Pick up trash, eliminate graffiti as soon as it appears.
- Do not stack boxes, pallets, etc. outside but dispose of properly.
- Maintain the landscaping and lighting. cursory checks should be made to make sure the lights are working.