

# JOLIET Police Department

C RIME  
P REVENTION  
T HROUGH  
E NVIRONMENTAL  
D ESIGN

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*"working with the community for a safe city"*

[www.ci.joliet.il.us/jpd.htm](http://www.ci.joliet.il.us/jpd.htm)  
Crime Prevention Unit 724-3124  
Neighborhood Oriented Policing Team 724- 3230

We constantly respond to our environment, whether we are aware of it or not. Our responses help us interact safely in our communities. Effective design of our environment helps us to feel safer and reduces opportunities for criminal acts.

- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED, pronounced sep-ted)** is an initiative that helps us create healthy, safe communities through well planned environmental design.
- **CPTED is based on the premise that the design of our environment directly affects our behavior.** It influences both the opportunities for crime to take place and our fear of crime. This has an important impact on our quality of life.
- **CPTED enhances safety by altering physical design and encouraging positive social interaction.**

CPTED offers an alternative to creating fortress-like communities where we have to lock ourselves away to feel safe. CPTED complements the use of target hardening strategies like locks and bars, police and security personnel. It increases our freedom to use our community facilities.

### HOW CPTED WORKS

CPTED promotes design principles in planned environments that encourage safe behavior and reduce the opportunities for crime to occur. Second Generation CPTED takes these strategies further to include and encourage the interaction and participation of community members with their environment and with each other.



### ***CPTED Basic Principles:***

#### **Natural access control restricts access**

Natural access control guides people entering and leaving a space through the placement of entrances, exits, fences, landscaping and lighting. Natural access control can decrease opportunities for criminal activity by denying criminals access to potential targets and creating a perception of risk for would-be offenders.

#### **Natural surveillance increases visibility**

Seeing and being seen are important aspects of crime prevention. Natural surveillance guides the placement of physical features such as windows, lighting and landscaping which affect how much can be seen. A potential criminal is unlikely to attempt a crime if he or she is at risk of being observed. At the same time, we are likely to feel safer when we can see and be seen.

### Territorial reinforcement *promotes a sense of ownership*

Physical design can create a sphere of territorial influence that can be perceived by, and may deter, potential offenders. Defined property lines and clear distinctions between private and public spaces are examples of the application of territorial reinforcement. Territorial reinforcement can be created using landscaping, pavement designs, decorative gateways, signs and fences.

### ***CPTED Support Efforts:***

#### Maintenance *deters offenders*

A well maintained home, building or community park creates a sense of guardianship and helps deter crime

#### Activity support *fosters community interaction*

Encouraging activities in public spaces that are intended for use by residents and other legitimate users discourages criminal acts.



## CPTED SECURITY TIPS

### HOUSES

- Use walkways and landscaping to direct visitors to the main entrance and away from private areas.
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed from windows and doors to improve visibility.
- Use lighting over entrances.
- Use thorny plants along fence lines and under windows to deter access by intruders.

### APARTMENTS

- Ensure hallways are well lit.
- Install good quality deadbolts and peepholes on unit doors.
- Provide common space in central locations to encourage tenant interaction.
- Join or start Neighborhood Watch in your building



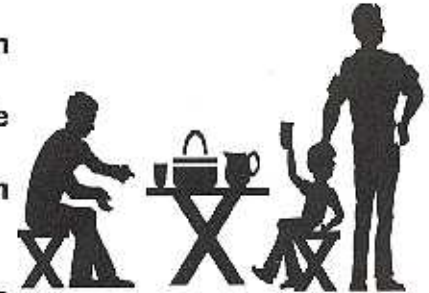
## NEIGHBORHOODS

- Locate open spaces and recreational areas so they are visible from nearby homes and streets.
- Avoid landscaping that might create blind spots or hiding places.
- Make sure there is appropriate lighting.
- Design streets to discourage cut-through or high-speed traffic using "traffic calming" measures.

Join or start **Neighborhood Watch** in your neighborhood.

## BUSINESSES

- Locate checkout counters near the front of the store, clearly visible from outside.
- Window signs should cover no more than 15% of windows to provide clear visibility into and out of the store.
- Use shelving and displays no higher than five feet to help see who is in the store.
- Avoid creating outdoor spaces that encourage loitering.
- Ensure lighting is consistent throughout the parking lot and into the store.



**NOTE:** CPTED is site specific, so each of these tips must be customized to the particular space.

## PUTTING CPTED TO WORK

CPTED can be applied in both existing communities and during the planning stages of new communities. Ideally, CPTED principles should be applied during the design phase to avoid potentially costly changes later.

### *In existing communities:*

- CPTED can be applied by identifying problem areas and creatively finding solutions to make those spaces safer.
- A CPTED assessment can be done for an existing community, home, building, school, playground, park or business. ( Contact the Crime Prevention Unit)

### *In new communities:*

- Many problems can be avoided if the CPTED principles are applied during the design and planning process. (Contact the Crime Prevention Unit)
- Incorporating CPTED during the initial design can reduce the time and cost associated with the need to address safety issues later.
- CPTED can increase quality of life, make living spaces more comfortable and increase our sense of safety and security.

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