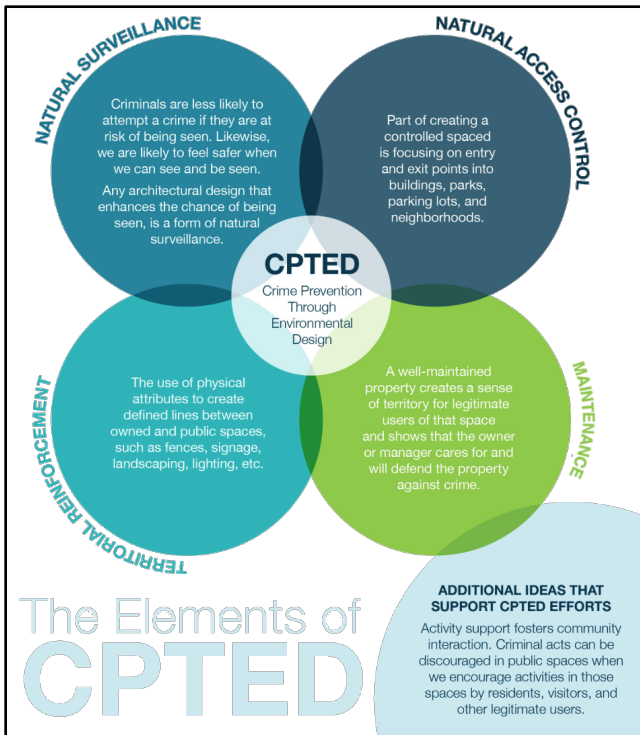




# In Brief: CPTED

An overview for public safety professionals

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 February 2024



Source: Billings Chamber of Commerce

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) has been utilized in law enforcement practices and city design for decades. The basic principles of CPTED are that the environment impacts crime, both as cause and prevention, and effective implementation requires a collaborative effort from law enforcement agencies and community partners, such as business owners and the general public (Dudley, 2019 & Weyand, 2022).

Effective CPTED strategies and implementation have been shown to reduce crime, calls for service (sometimes by more than 60%), and improve public safety (Cozens & Love, 2015 & Dudley, 2019). Effectiveness can be measured quantitatively by examining the total crimes and calls for service, and qualitatively by the overall sense of security felt by the community and their natural participation in helping maintain and monitor properties and shared spaces.

## CPTED Strategies for Officers:

1. Regular contact with business owners to foster strong relationships and encourage accountability and compliance with CPTED best practices on deterring crimes and delinquent behaviors.
2. Detail environmental concerns in police reports such as low lighting or ineffective access control to help support future research on CPTED best practices and implementations.
3. Increase community outreach and community-led policing efforts, including regular attendance at town hall meetings and other community events to educate the public on CPTED strategies.
4. Encourage gatherings in public spaces to deter crime as locations with frequent foot traffic discourage opportunistic offenders as there are many “eyes on the street” (Cozens & Love, 2015).
  - a. Proximity to green spaces (e.g., parks) has been linked to crime reduction (Larson, 2019).

## Additional Information & Resources:

- [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Parker, CO](#)
- International CPTED Association: [Quarterly Newsletters](#)
- National Crime Prevention Council: [CPTED Guidebook](#)
- Safer Streets Grant Program: [Resources for Crime Prevention](#)

## References:

Cozens, P. & Love, T. (2015). [A Review and Current Status of CPTED](#). *Journal of Planning Literature*, 30(4), 392-412. DOI: 10.1177/0885412215595440

Dudley, J. (2019). [6 reasons why CPTED should be part of every agency's crime-fighting plan](#). Police1.com.

Larson, L. & Ogletree, S. S. (2019). [Can parks help cities fight crime?](#) TheConversation.com.

Weyand, O. (2022). [Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Parker, CO](#). ArcGIS StoryMaps.

HTML version: <https://dcj.colorado.gov/dcj-offices/ors/doc-res/brf-cpted1>