

# CPTED

"... A crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as improving the quality of life."

National Crime  
Prevention Institute



## Resource Guide

Main Office  
314-3700

Crime Prevention Office  
314-3717

Parking Enforcement  
314-3769

Code Enforcement  
314-3335

Police Dispatch  
820-2144



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510 La Gonda Way  
Danville, CA 94526  
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# CPTED

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design



## Designing Safer Communities Through CPTED Strategies

Crime prevention through environmental design is a tool for identifying, preventing, and solving local crime problems.

CPTED is a process; a way of thinking about crime. CPTED emphasizes understanding and changing the physical environment in an effort to reduce crime at particular locations.

It brings together police, local planners, residents, and members of other local agencies to examine how the area's physical features influence crime and the opportunity for crime. Physical features can then be designed or modified to reduce vulnerability to crime.

The goal of all CPTED applications is to:

- Decrease crime
- Decrease the fear of crime
- Increase the quality of life

## The Four Strategies

- **Natural Surveillance** is the design of an area so as to allow the greatest visibility by citizens. This strategy works because criminals do not want to commit crimes in areas where they feel exposed to observers. In the event a crime does occur, there is a greater chance that it will be witnessed and reported.
- **Territorial Reinforcement** refers to how space is defined. All space can be defined as public, private, or semi-public/semi-private. Territorial reinforcement clearly shows the transition from public space to private space. This strategy helps legitimate users to develop a sense of ownership over a space and become guardians against criminal acts.
- **Access Control** is the design of an area to physically obstruct or guide access by people and vehicles. This strategy works by deterring access to potential targets of crime, but it also causes improper access to be noticed more readily. Access control includes target hardening.
- **Maintenance** refers to the basic upkeep and repair of an area. Proper maintenance demonstrates that someone cares and is watching. If a property is run-down or in disrepair, it is more likely to attract non-legitimate activities. Routine maintenance can have a great deal of impact in making an area unattractive to offenders.

