



CPTED Principles

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is based on a set of principles that encompass the idea that simple changes to a physical space, such as improvements in lighting, or putting up an open fence on an unused corner lot, can show others that this area is being watched and looked after, and in turn, can reduce the opportunity for crime to occur.

Territorial Reinforcement: Activities and physical features of a community that show care and ownership communicate that a place is claimed for positive activity, not crime.

Surveillance: Enhancing visibility encourages lawful behavior and helps neighbors look out for one another.

Maintenance (Image Management): Clean, bright and well-tended spaces encourage neighbors to take pride and invest in their communities.

Access Control: Effective placement of entrances and exits position residents to observe activity, identify emerging concerns, and prevent unauthorized access to spaces.

Lighting: Lighting promotes a sense of safety by allowing people to observe their environment and identify potential threats.

Environmental Cues: The use of multiple CPTED principles sends a clear message that a location is a safe place.

Social Management (Legitimate Activity Support): Positive social activities bring people together, and encourage neighbors to take an active role in creating a safe and connected community.

For more information:

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Youth Violence Prevention Through Environmental Design

Youth Violence Prevention Through Environmental Design aims to study the effects of environmental design on crime and youth violence. The project is in partnership with the University Avenue Corridor Coalition (UACC), a local community-based coalition in Flint, MI, and funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The UACC was established in 2012 to implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) activities to address blight and crime hotspots, improve neighborhood health and safety, stabilize land use, establish leisure and recreational areas, and create and improve communication links and education in the area.

The University Avenue Corridor Coalition (UACC), is a broad based collaboration of universities, community organizations, and law enforcement which formed with the collective goal of revitalizing the University Avenue area of Flint, Michigan. This corridor connects a hospital and two universities in the city with the downtown area. Over the years, it has also experienced much disinvestment and neglect.

This funding allows the group to expand their neighborhood and blight elimination efforts to a wider area and evaluate the effects of their projects on crime, injury, property conditions and neighborhood perceptions.

Renew the Avenue

The UACC is leading an affiliated project, funded by a grant from the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program, for which the YVPC is assuming the role of evaluator.

Renew the Avenue is a collaboration between the UACC, the YVPC, Michigan State University, as well as local Flint neighborhood associations, public figures, and law enforcement. Implementation of the project encompasses many CPTED-based activities also aiming to eliminate blight and reduce crime in Flint.

