

Appendix C
Crime Prevention through
Environmental Design (CPTED)
Key Elements

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Key Elements

- Provide clear, controlled access to the space – design to provide clearly, readable access to the main entrance using well-lit, pedestrian walkways and area lighting, while discouraging undesired pedestrian traffic cutting through the site;
- Provide opportunity for surveillance – typically criminals do not want to be seen and look for places to easily hide before or after a criminal act. Designing to provide the user with a clear, unobstructed view of their surroundings and reducing the opportunity for sudden surprises, blind corners and dark passages makes for a more comfortable experience. Surveillance can be achieved through well-placed landscape plant material and lighting – allowing for observation of the site by those passing through or “natural surveillance”, police patrol or other neighbourhood watch programs, or “organized surveillance”, and through the use of closed-circuit television cameras or other “mechanical surveillance” devices;
- Territoriality – design to identify the space or create a sense of proprietorship by the user. Territoriality can often be achieved through the design of central nodes or places to gather along pedestrian circulation routes. Identified gathering places can be seen as destinations, such as parking lots, trail heads, entranceways and bus stops. By knowing that there are places of refuge, particularly well signed and well lit, the user feels more comfortable and inclined to enter the space; and
- Lighting – lighting design should provide clear safe, access. Site lighting should be selected based on performance requirements – pedestrian trail lighting may be quite different from parking lot lighting requirements. Lighting can be used to orient the user within a space such as denoting an area of refuge, or exit. Trail lighting should be suitable to illuminate peoples’ faces. Consideration should be made to where and how lighting standards are placed within the landscape. Trees and shrubs should be placed such that they do not block the light from illuminating the desired areas. Heights of light standards should be selected with consideration for tree canopy and future plant growth in mind.