

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

The City Of Missoula adheres to these principles when designing new parks and trails. For questions or comments about how these standards will be applied to a particular project, please contact Parks and Trails Development Manager Dave Shaw at 552-6264 or dshaw@ci.missoula.mt.us.

Safe Paths and Common Areas

- Provide adequate lighting for all pedestrian walkways to be used in hours of darkness.
- Close or discourage nighttime use of walkways where adequate lighting, visibility, and surveillance cannot be provided.
- Eliminate entrapment, spots, e.g. dense landscaping or plant growth, high walls or hedges, or alcoves along pedestrian walkways.
- Locate amenities and activities at or near entrances, exits and major circulation paths to increase risk of detection for intruders.

Use signs to:

- Discourage access to dangerous places
- Indicate opening and closing times
- Direct people to safe paths, exits, emergency assistance, means of calling for help, etc.
- Inform people how to report maintenance problems, i.e. inoperative lighting.
- Inform intruders of access control measures.

CPTED Strategies

Timothy D. Crowe, a previous director of the National Crime Prevention Institute, and perhaps the most notable authority on CPTED today, has defined the following seven CPTED strategies.

- ***Provide clear border definition of controlled space.*** Examples of border definition may include fences, shrubbery or signs in exterior areas. Within a building, the arrangement of furniture and color definition can serve as a means of identifying controlled space. As much as possible, all space should be the clear responsibility of someone.
- ***Provide clearly marked transitional zones.*** Persons need to be able to identify when they are moving from public to semi-public to private space. For example, a sidewalk represents public space and the main path into a residential development is semiprivate, and a path that branches into individual units becomes semiprivate and the interior of the unit becomes private space.
- ***Relocation of gathering areas.*** Gathering areas or congregating areas need to be located or designated in locations where there is good surveillance and access control. For example, play areas should be located within the central common area of the building with as many units as possible to watch children at play.
- ***Place safe activities in unsafe locations.*** Safe activities attract normal users to a location and subsequently render the location less attractive to abnormal users due to observation and possible intervention. For example, well-used common areas (safe) may overlook a parking area (unsafe) to provide additional security for the parking area.

- ***Place unsafe activities in safe locations.*** Placing unsafe activities in areas of natural surveillance or controlled access will help overcome risk and make the users of the area feel safer. For instance, common restroom facilities should not be located in a remote corner of the site or at the end of a long hallway.
- ***Redesignate the use of space to provide natural barriers.*** Separate activities that may conflict with each other (outdoor basketball court and children's play areas, for example) by distance, natural terrain or other functions to avoid such conflict.
- ***Improve scheduling of space.*** The timing in the use of space can reduce the risk for normal users and cause abnormal users to be of greater risk of surveillance and intervention.