



Designing Safe Cities

SafeGrowth
+ CPTED in
Saskatoon

Samantha Blatz
in collaboration with Elisabeth Miller, City of Saskatoon

Background + Context

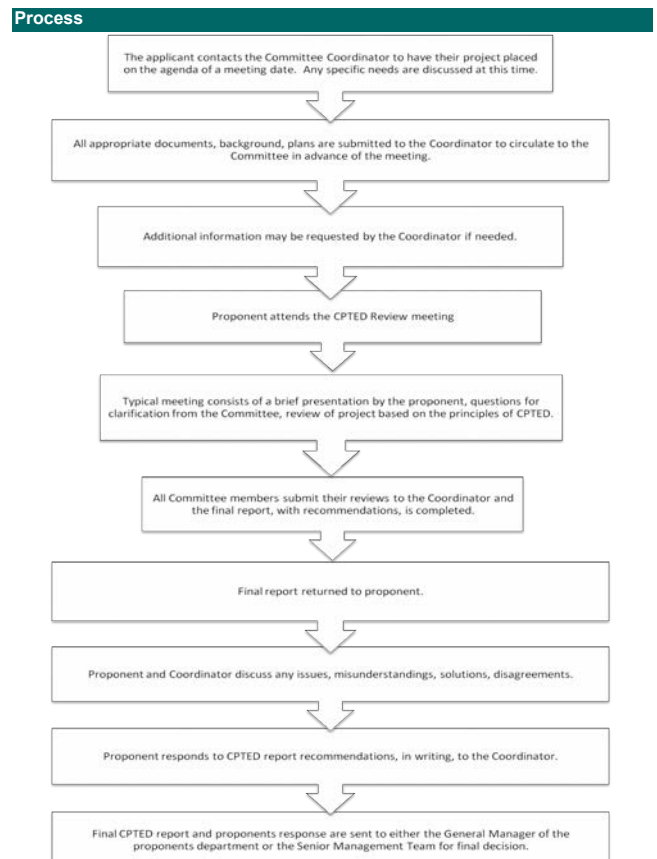
Issues of crime and fear of crime have always been prevalent in urban environments, where fear of strangers is most prevalent though actual violence from strangers occurs less often than this perception. Building safety and the perception of safety within cities and communities is a high priority for decision-makers and citizens alike.

CPTED principles are created across a range of disciplines, including planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and criminology. These design solutions are implemented primarily in the built urban environment and are designed to target and prevent criminal behavior in the public realm (Cozens & Love, 2015). The City of Saskatoon presents a slightly different perspective on this, understanding that management and operational policies are also necessary to reduce opportunities for criminal behavior and increase feelings of safety throughout the neighbourhood. Some solutions include controlling natural points of access or creating opportunities for natural surveillance (City of Winnipeg, 2006). This can be done through architectural elements that direct the movement of people through an entryway or by creating a space that encourages people to inhabit and linger in a space, creating 'eyes on the street' (City of Winnipeg, 2006; Jacobs, 1961). CPTED was first conceived of in 1971 by criminologist C. Ray Jeffery (Cozens & Love, 2015). However, since that time a second generation of CPTED principles has emerged. This new generation of principles moves from a sole focus on design solutions to also encompass social

Facts of the Case

The City of Saskatoon has implemented CPTED principles into their design review process. As well, they have expanded this review to include a number of principles that more directly address social issues, "combining [the] approaches in a holistic fashion". The inclusion of the expanded list of principles is based on work done by Gregory Saville and Gerard Cleveland who coined the phrase SafeGrowth. This approach includes fourteen principles to be applied in civic projects where appropriate. They have also provided a guidebook for designers and developers to encourage them to incorporate these principles into privately owned projects. The fourteen principles are outlined in the following pages.

Depending on the scale and design detail of each project, the CPTED Review Process may take 4 – 6 weeks from date of review to final report.



CPTED Principles

Territoriality

This principle refers to the creation of spaces and places by users of a site. The intention with this principle is to make it less likely for people not associated with the place to engage in criminal activities there when they see that the space is well cared for and likely often populated. This can be achieved through interventions by the City or a neighbourhood association but ultimately must be adopted by community members for long-term success. ▼



Natural Surveillance

This principle stems from the concept of “eyes on the street” which was popularized by Jane Jacobs in the 1950s. In this scenario the elements of the site, whether landscaping, lighting, or street furniture, are arranged in such a way that creates sightlines and allows for natural surveillance from surrounding shops, sidewalks, or streets.

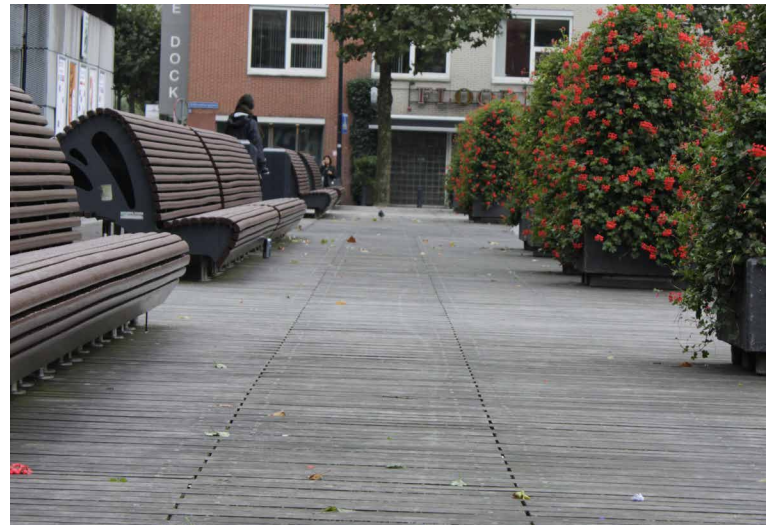
Access Control

This principle refers to the control of entrances and exits to public spaces. This can be done through fencing or other architectural or landscape design features. It can also be achieved by emphasizing and encouraging the use of recognized entrances and exits. ▼



Image

This principle is concerned with creating a sense of place in public spaces in order to encourage users to take ownership of the space. This can be achieved through regular neighbourhood clean-ups and graffiti removal. Regular maintenance is meant to deter criminal activity by creating a sense of territoriality. ▼



Conflicting User Groups

This occurs when land uses conflict, such as when a loud nightclub is situated close to a residential neighbourhood. This can be remedied through proper siting of land uses to ensure there is a mix of amenities and uses that will experience minimal conflict.

Activity Support

This principle aims to decrease criminal activity by populating public spaces during off-peak hours through hosting or facilitating events and activities. ▼



Crime Generators

This principle targets areas of neighbourhoods that do not necessarily generate or promote criminal activity, but their presence may facilitate unwanted behaviour. One example is a 24-hour liquor store, which is an acceptable business practice but may facilitate unwanted behaviours outside of regular business hours.

Land Use Mix

Mixing land uses can help discourage criminal behaviour by providing options for activities that keep public spaces occupied throughout the day and evening, providing natural surveillance. For example, in a central business district, offices and shops will bring employees and shoppers to the area during the day, while restaurants and theatres will bring patrons to the area in the evening.

Movement Predictors

This principle is similar to Access Control in that it relates to controlling the movement of people. This is most often used for pedestrians and cyclists, to direct them along certain pathways or provide wayfinding systems to help them navigate an unfamiliar area with ease. When designing these paths it is essential to ensure that areas of the path that are removed from busy public spaces are well lit and have clear sightlines. ▼



Displacement

This principle refers to the movement of crime in both time and space. This can include both negative and positive elements, such as the movement of crime from one neighbourhood to another, or the removal of opportunities for crime which results in an overall decrease in criminal behaviour.

Cohesion

Refers to the relationships that exist or are formed between users of the space. The facilitation of these relationships through community programming or regular events creates an atmosphere of respect of the space of fellow users, which subconsciously deters criminal behaviour.

Connectivity

This principle is related to Cohesion in that it is concerned with relationships, however, the focus here is on relationships and connections that are formed external to the space. The idea behind this is that it is important to understand that all spaces do not exist within a vacuum and must be supported by connections across a neighbourhood or a city.

Capacity

This principle refers to the ability of a space to support the uses it is intended for. This principle is strongly connected to Land Use Mix. For example, if there are too many small parks throughout a neighbourhood and not enough people to populate them, it is likely that some will become less and less used by the community and provide more opportunities for criminal behaviour.

Culture

This principle refers to spaces that embody a “sense of place”. This can be achieved through a number of interventions, activities, and displays as community members take ownership of the space and bring their own life into the area.

There are many neighbourhoods that have participated in reviewing their communities as a whole through the Local Area Planning process. Part of this comprehensive, community based program, the community also reviews their community through the lens of safety, and specifically these fourteen principles of CPTED. This includes a crime risk assessment that includes demographics, homeownership, park space and many other topics. Information for the risk assessment is drawn from Census Canada, SaskHealth, and Saskatoon Police Service data as well as other data collected by the City of Saskatoon. Additional information is collected in partnership and directly from the community and relates to where they feel safe and unsafe in their neighbourhood.

Once this information is collated, and Action Plan is established for the area and approved by the community members. A Safety Audit is often one important tool that communities employ and is conducted by community members who are sometimes joined by civic staff and police. Through this process, team members review the areas identified in the Action Plan and assess the area using the fourteen principles of CPTED identified by the City of Saskatoon. This information is compiled and collated into the final Local Area Plan final report which is tabled at City Council for approval. Within this report are also recommendations, identified, and approved by the community and administration, that are drawn from the identified principles of CPTED. Each recommendation has its roots in one or more principles and an appropriate solution is identified in each situation. For example, some concerns and solutions noted by community members from the Pleasant Hill Safety Audit Report, included enhancing the main entrances of Pleasant Hill, ensuring all houses have address numbers at the front and back, adding pedestrian-oriented lighting, developing a Citizen Patrol Program with the local police services, and creating public announcement boards for community events and programming.

Alongside this, the City of Saskatoon has created several guides and policies for assisting neighbourhood associations and developers in integrating CPTED features such as lighting and back lane maintenance. It has been noted by researchers in Winnipeg that neighbourhood-level responses are not sufficient to correct some of the social problems that result in high crime rates (Dobchuk-Land, Toews & Silver, 2010). This research attempts to examine the implementation of these initiatives, as well as their collaboration with official responses from the City of Saskatoon.

Lessons Learned

There are several lessons that can be learned from the use of Safegrowth and the principles of CPTED in Saskatoon. The first of these is the use of a crime risk assessment.

Crime risk assessment

The importance of the crime risk assessment is that it is essential to understand the concerns within the neighbourhood before they can be addressed and there is no one better to relay those concerns than those who live, work, and play within that neighbourhood every day. Beyond the importance of local knowledge, the involvement of community members at an early stage in the process can also help to ensure that any interventions that are implemented are supported by, and in some cases maintained, by the community.

Municipal support

In this case the principles of CPTED are being championed by the City of Saskatoon, however, there are many cases, in other jurisdictions, where these principles are being brought forward by community members or neighbourhood associations. In these cases, it is essential to gain municipal support for the project. This is in part, because some of the interventions associated with the CPTED principles need to be implemented at a large scale such as land use mix and housing or amenity density. However, there are still many initiatives that can be implemented or championed by communities.

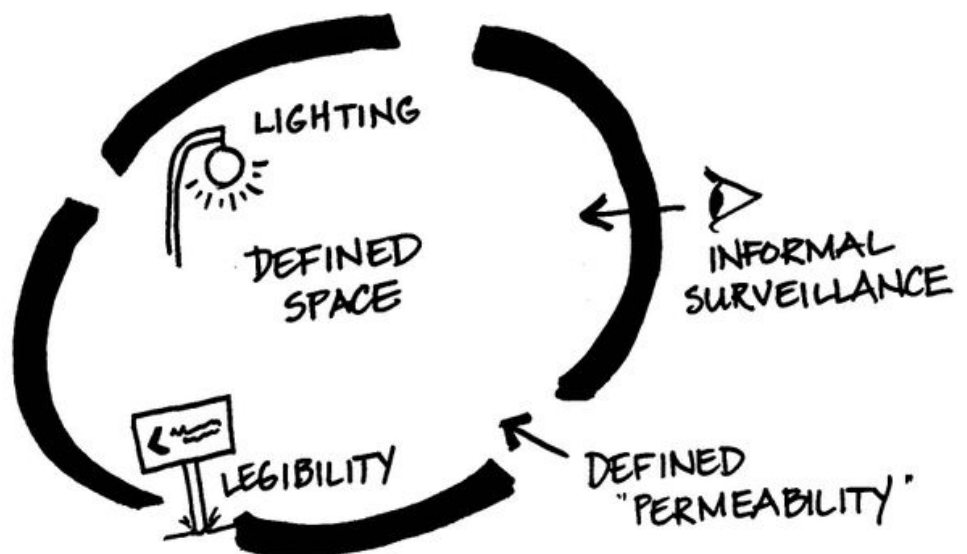
Integration of social programming

Though these design solutions can aid in helping to reduce the opportunity from crime to occur and address

fear of crime, they are by no means the whole solution. Design interventions must be paired with appropriate social supports and programs. An attempt at this has been made through the program in Saskatoon with the inclusion of socially focused 2nd Generation CPTED principles such as Cohesion, Connectivity, Capacity, and Culture. As with several other CPTED principles, integrating social programming with design solutions will require municipal and possibly provincial support in order to be successful, not to mention support of the community members in whose neighbourhoods the interventions are proposed.

Early Adoption + Collaboration

It has also been found that early adoption and application of the CPTED principles has led to stronger and more successful projects, as well as long-term financial savings. As well, in Saskatoon it has been found that inter-department collaboration is essential for success. This is seen especially when it is not the Planning department who is responsible for a project but a different department or departments. In these cases they have found that forming interdisciplinary groups has been effective, as well as bringing decisions to Senior Management when appropriate.



References

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