



# CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

*Chesterfield County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit (804) 318 - 8699*

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, known by the acronym 'CPTED', enhances and creates safe, livable communities by integrating crime-preventive designs and elements into the built environment to reduce criminal opportunities. In this way, safety becomes a by-product of good design. CPTED:**

- Emphasizes natural, versus “target hardening” approaches to invisibly and inexpensively, introduce safety and security into the built environment.
- Utilizes expertise from fields such as architecture, criminology, psychology, and sociology to formulate crime prevention strategies.
- Incorporates four strategies to address criminal opportunities: natural surveillance, natural access control, territoriality, and maintenance.
- Maximizes natural surveillance (visibility) through the proper placement of physical features, activities, and people. Offenders are less likely to act if their actions can be easily detected. Normal/authorized users feel safer when they can see and be seen.
- Helps deny access to criminal targets and create a perception of risk in offenders.
- Encourages the use of physical attributes that express and promote ownership, thereby creating pride in, and concern for a space. Examples include fencing, signage, landscaping, lighting, pavement treatments, and artwork.
- Promotes well-maintained environments which demonstrate ownership and concern while reinforcing other CPTED principles. Clean, aesthetically pleasing environments encourage activity, attract customers, and demonstrate pride.
- Applies target hardening approaches, when necessary, to compliment natural crime prevention strategies.



**Through proper planning and design, CPTED's creative, multi-disciplinary approach minimizes opportunities for crime and improves the quality of life.**

