

Campus Strategic Design for Crime Prevention

Intent: The *University of Nebraska-Lincoln* is committed to providing a safe campus environment for its students, faculty and staff. The guidelines for campus strategic design are based on the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). These principles are meant to help mitigate crime through the design and ultimate function of the physical environment in a positive and aesthetic way.

Goals

1. Maintain a safe campus with the guidance of the CPTED principles and precedents.
2. Set guidelines to be followed and implemented into current and future designs.
3. Reinforce the existing boundary on campus.
4. Create a sense of safety through natural surveillance and natural access control.

CPTED Principles: CPTED is based on the following overlapping principles:

Natural Surveillance

The incorporation of natural surveillance into a building can aid in crime prevention and involves:

1. Designing window placements to look out over areas and give students a sense of where they are going and their surroundings.
2. Proper natural and artificial lighting utilized in all areas to maintain a clear sight at all times.
3. Large clear spaces have a high sense of safety.
4. Views from protective areas.

Territorial Reinforcement

The use of territory definition is a physical crime prevention element. It conveys to others the space they are currently in is private. These types of defining tools can be used:

1. Landscape elements can be used to define a campus identity and deter unwanted activities.
2. Patterns of paving and repetition of ground elements generate a psychological barrier.
3. Fencing when used appropriately can be attractive and well define the campus edges.
4. Common lighting fixtures define the territory of campus.
5. Clearly defined boundaries allow students to be proactive in crime prevention.

Natural Access Control

Gateways and transition zones are to be defined by physical elements that create a barrier for intruders. Elements that can be used to successfully accomplish this are:

1. Placement of entrances and exits can subtly direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic
2. Physical elements placed in the campus environment can direct unwanted people away
Examples of these elements are: doors, fences, shrubs, locks
3. Use psychological barriers in places that physical barriers are not appropriate.
4. Strategies should limit crime but not hinder the mobility of students and other campus users.

Building Form and Placement

The permanent structure of a building can generate or deter crime. Designers should adhere to creating a building that limits the chances of crime around the building by using any elements within 5 to 10 feet as crime prevention elements. These elements are:

1. The structure of the building should not have unnecessary recessed areas on the exterior of the building.
2. Windows should not have obstructed views from exterior architectural elements, vegetation, or other design elements which impede visibility of the window.
3. The use of planters and seating in front of a building will funnel traffic along the designed pathway.

The following guidelines are several practical applications of CPTED principles that shall be incorporated into new construction and remodeling projects on the UNL campus.

Campus Strategic Design for Crime Prevention

Landscape Guidelines:

1. Landscape plantings shall be designed to allow for open views to building entrances, bike parking areas, sidewalk intersections, seating and gathering areas and parking lots from adjacent sidewalks and streets. Shrub and perennial plantings shall not exceed 3'-0' in height in these areas.
2. Trees should be planted so they do not block views to the building entrance or allow access to second story windows.
3. Trees should be planted a minimum of 15' away from lighting to minimize impact to light levels.
4. Avoid plantings that obscure views to lower level windows.
5. Utilize thorny plants when utilized as a barrier planting.
6. Landscape plan should consider heights of shrub/perennial plants with relationship to tree planted in the same bed to ensure the two types do not grow into each other creating a visual barrier.
7. Plan lighting to provide maximum visibility and adequate light levels along walkways, in plazas, seating areas, bike parking, and waste collection/dock areas.
8. When project work requires outages of any exterior lighting, including building, sidewalk or street lighting, provide adequate temporary lighting for the entire duration of the outage as part of the project.
9. Provide close proximity and/or a direct path to bike racks and/or parking lots.
10. Site wall and building design should avoid creating hidden recesses.
11. Provide building glazing to promote the natural view of outdoor areas from indoors.
12. Utilize "rolling" berms (elevation changes to allow some natural view while still softening visual impact) rather than "straight" berms (constant elevation that blocks all natural view) around parking lots.
13. Facilities that require barriers from vehicles, should incorporate natural physical elements and design of entrances and approaches that prevents vehicle access in close proximity of high security facilities.
14. When possible, approaches, sidewalks, and parking areas should be designed to limit the extent of mixing pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Maintenance and Management

Continued maintenance of a space extends the life span of its intended purpose. Designs should consider maintenance with the materials chosen for the building structure, exterior elements and landscape plantings.

Lighting Systems: See *UNL Design Guidelines for Building Electrical Systems* for exterior lighting specifications required.