Can I see? Can others see me?

People feel safe in areas where it is easy to see other people or be seen, such as a block where neighbors use their front yards and porches. Issues like over-grown shrubs, poor lighting, or high opaque fencing make it difficult to see and discourage residents from engaging in their neighborhood, which can provide opportunities for unsafe or violent behavior.

— Principle 1

Solutions to consider: Leave porch lights on at night. Encourage city to maintain landscaping and street lights. Use see-through fences instead of privacy fences. Encourage neighbors to spend time together in public spaces to increase "eyes on the street."

Do I know where to go?

People feel more secure when they know where to go. Things like clearly marked entrances and exits and signs that guide visitors to their destinations make it easier to enjoy public spaces and make clear what those spaces are used for.

— Principle 2

Solutions to consider: Highlight main entrances to buildings and parks with things like signs, lighting, and landscaping. Post trail markers in parks. Use signs to promote positive use of public spaces like neighborhood gatherings and movie nights.

What is this space for?

When a space is being used for its intended purpose, people feel safer. This includes making public parks and playgrounds feel safe and welcoming for kids and families, as well as marking the end of a public space and the beginning of private property.
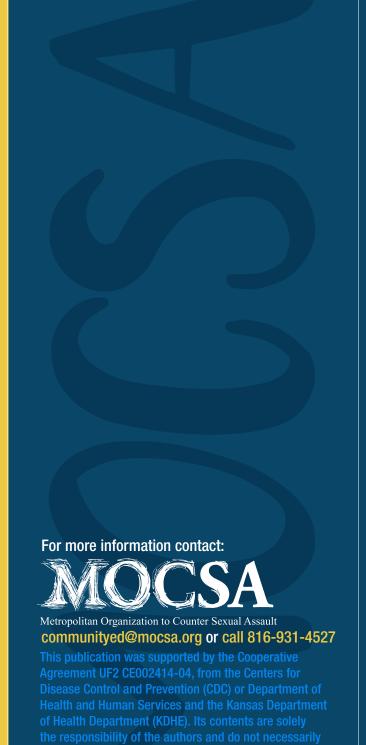
— Principle 3

Solutions to consider: Use landscaping or low fences to show where people should or shouldn't walk. Make small neighborhood parks more visible by using welcoming signs. Use public events to encourage use of community centers, parks, and trails.

People are less likely to engage in unsafe behavior in places where it is clear that someone cares about the space. Things like yard upkeep, addressing vandalism as soon as it happens, and securing vacant buildings make it clear that neighbors are engaged in the neighborhood and are paying attention to what happens there.

— Principle 4

Solutions to consider: Organize a neighborhood or park clean-up. Help neighbors who have difficulty maintaining their yards or homes. Call the city to report break-ins in vacant buildings. Report public maintenance issues like graffiti or streetlight outages.

Is this space main-tained?

Create A Safer Community:
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), is a strategy for making our communities more welcoming by designing the places and spaces you share with your neighbors with safety in mind.

CPTED is about making simple changes to our physical surroundings to promote safety and community interaction. We can use this strategy to reduce the opportunity for crime and violence and bring neighbors together.

For more information contact:

MOCSA
Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault

communityed@mocsa.org or call 816-931-4527