Application of CPTED Principles and Practices in Urban Park Management

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Disclosure

This is part of an educational package directed to

- Parks management agencies
- Park Rangers
- Park Planners
- Park Stakeholders
Why are parks so different?

- Community's idea of “acceptable behaviour” can change dramatically in a park setting
- Different communities have different values for a park!
Lesson 1

- Reality Check
Reality - .5% wildlife management – 99.5% visitor safety management
Major responsibility is to facilitate

• Visitor Safety in a political environment
  And
• Manage the Perception of Visitor Safety in a political environment
The New Challenge – *Urbanization* of parks
24/7 Challenges for Park Agencies

- Community expectation for safe access
- Parks to be lit
- Facilities to be available
- Car access
- Access for community groups
Behavioural issues in parks

- Vandalism / graffiti
- Assault and worse
- Car break ins
- Building break ins
- Ancillary crime associated with other activities such as beat activity and syringe use
- Dog related (attacks on wildlife etc)

And it all after 7pm
Warning!
Reduced community confidence may lead to the sudden increase in the birth rate of 2 problems
This is not necessarily the answer
A thing of the past
Available resources

• Authorised Park Rangers
• Local government officers
• VicPol
• Not much else – or is there?
So let's begin our journey
We are all creatures of habit
Resource requirement
Doing the same job - still maintaining the view
What looks better?
What feels better?
CPTED recognises that

The physical environment can be manipulated to:

• produce / promote / prevent certain behaviour

• reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour
CPTED is not new
Applying CPTED in Parks
maybe relatively new
CPTED - Using a number of elements to achieve community safety

• Landscape
• Built form
• Activation of areas
• Appropriate lighting (includes no lighting)
But – it must be have the benefits of

• increasing quality of community life

And

• self regulating
Inside your park

Principles of good design and location of park facilities
Same Guidelines

For any facility and in the public arena

• Toilets
• Bird hides
• Picnic Shelters
• Interpretation Centre's
• Pavilions
• BBQ shelters
• Tracks, Roads and Pathways
Never assume the community is united - for or against any activity
Why are these places safer?
Solitude vs the multitudes
Commercial activities – are they good for the park?
Does lighting an area necessarily make it safer?

Safe Park lighting is borne from lighting strategies
Using CPTED Principles in Design and Location of public facilities

• High visibility of entrances
• Close to and open to the areas they are designed to serve—such as picnic grounds, shelters and playgrounds
• Opportunity for informal surveillance
“What we need is more signs”
Using built form CPTED – helps you to create self regulating behaviour
Co-location
Can it be true? – someone's already done the work for us?
CPTED Design Principles that promote casual surveillance and provide adequate sightlines:

• locate development to overlook open space and/or adjacent development
• create building frontages that include a sense of activity
• establish clear sightlines through the sensitive location of buildings and other site features
• design pathways, underpasses and other spaces to minimise sudden changes of grade and blind corners
• maximise the visibility of high risk areas such as car parks (public and employee), stairwells and underpasses
• design site layout so that pedestrian corridors and destination points are easily identifiable, and have generous sightlines
• avoid landscaping that creates barriers or restricts sightlines
• locate facilities such as bike racks and building entrances together in highly visible areas
Stop hiding facilities!
Working in Isolation?

CPTED can be ineffective when working in isolation of your neighbour.
Defensive Landscaping
Tenant Management
Appropriate consultation
Application
Education on and Inclusion of the 3 golden rules of CPTED into the planning, building and maintaining facilities in parks

1. Maintain a low growing vegetation at entry points
2. Create opportunities for casual surveillance
3. Create opportunities for positive activation in effected areas
Existing Toilets
• A basic design = basic service

• Nothing wrong with that!
Changes

1. Officers trained in CPTED available for comment and advice
2. Remediation for existing facilities
3. Media communications
4. Seeking advice from other Organisations - Local Government, VicPol Community Safety Departments
Support depends on successful stakeholder communication

- PV departments within departments
- Friends Groups
- Local Councillors
- Advisory Groups
- Office of the CEO
Selling the benefits of CPTED
The End

- Does your head hurt?
- Any Questions?
End part 2
• Rangers have no basis in law to approach people undertaking a legal activity in a park and tell them “this is a family park”

• There are no quick fixes for the majority of behavioural issues in parks

• Generally you need to work with a range of agencies and partners for a comprehensive response over time.

• We must also accept that culturally this will be difficult for many of our staff to ‘not deal with the problem direct’

• It’s possibly inevitable that some staff will continue to “not get it” and end up in legal strife or on the end of a ‘mother of all beltings’.