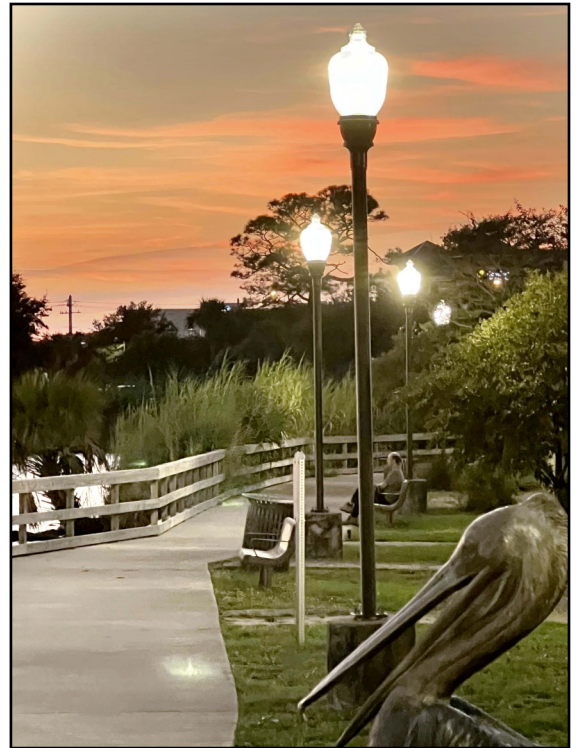




## **Discouraging Negative Activity by Incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Strategies**



Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a holistic approach to reducing crime and building stronger communities. CPTED focuses on urban design and the management of natural environments in a way that reduces opportunities for criminal behavior and other negative activities.

### **Implemented Programs**

The Fort Walton Beach (FWB) Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has successfully implemented CPTED strategies to address safety concerns in key areas. Alisa Burtleson, CRA Administrator and CPTED Practitioner, conducted extensive CPTED lighting and site analysis, identifying negative activity enhancers and recommending improvements. City departments collaborated to implement these recommendations, demonstrating how small environmental can significantly reduce negative activity and reclaim public spaces.

Historic Gulfview Center: Physical barriers and security cameras were installed, eliminating overnight encampments and drug usage on the upper balcony and underneath the ADA access ramp. Police calls to the site have decreased by 90%.

Sound Park: This scenic waterfront park was no longer attracting the general public due to an exuberant amount of negative activity and encampments. Lighting upgrades, a restructured Gazebo, and installation of a security camera has discouraged undesirable activity and returned the park to the general public.

Carson Drive: This area, previously a hotspot for criminal activity and code violations, has seen significant improvements. Florida Power and Light (FPL) and various city departments addressed issues such as poor lighting, abandoned properties, overgrown vegetations, and litter. As a result, absentee homeowners are cleaning up properties, investors are improving abandoned homes and vacant lots, and criminal activity has significantly decreased.

The city's efforts to prioritize public safety have been well-received, with ongoing projects continuing to demand attention and yield positive results.

## **Challenges**

CPTED implementation faces two main challenges: education and funding. Educating city administrators and the public about CPTED's purpose and benefits is crucial. While initial costs for upgrades and maintenance can be high, these short-term investments yield long-term community-wide benefits.

## **CPTED Plans Adopted**

Fort Walton Beach (FWB) has recognized the value of incorporating CPTED strategies throughout the city's parks and facilities. Alisa has been tasked with conducting CPTED site analyses throughout the city and presenting reports for recommended improvements to provide an improved quality of life for all citizens and visitors.

FWB CRA has allocated funds specifically for CPTED upgrades to address negative activity leading to blight. A non-matching \$5,000 grant was established for businesses located within the CRA District for incorporating CPTED upgrades in areas of concern.

## **How to implement CPTED in your community**

CPTED strategies are proven to be beneficial for improving safety in public and private spaces. A certified CPTED Practitioner is needed to conduct a thorough site analysis that will identify environmental factors contributing to negative activity and recommend effective solutions.

If engaging a certified CPTED Practitioner is not feasible, integrating fundamental CPTED concepts into urban planning and development can still yield significant benefits.

## **Benefits of CPTED Implementation**

Crime Reduction: Studies show lower crime rates in environments designed with CPTED principles.

Economic Growth: Safer environments attract businesses and increase property values.

Enhanced community Well-being: Reduced fear of crime leads to improved social interactions and mental health.

Increased Public Space Utilization: Well-designed spaces encourage community engagement and economic activities

Long-term Sustainability: CPTED's impact on crime rates is often sustained over time.

By adopting CPTED strategies, communities can create safer, more vibrant spaces that benefit all residents and visitors.