

PacificTA

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Case study: Parks, open spaces and community facilities planning – crime prevention

Well designed and maintained parks and open spaces (landscaped streets, waterfront developments, plazas and markets) give villages and cities structure, beauty, value and a sense of place and identity. Parks and other open spaces reflect the community. This helps to develop ownership and reduces vandalism and other anti-social behaviour.

Parks and open spaces support public health and social cohesion, promote arts and culture, help children learn, and can provide economic benefits such as tourism.

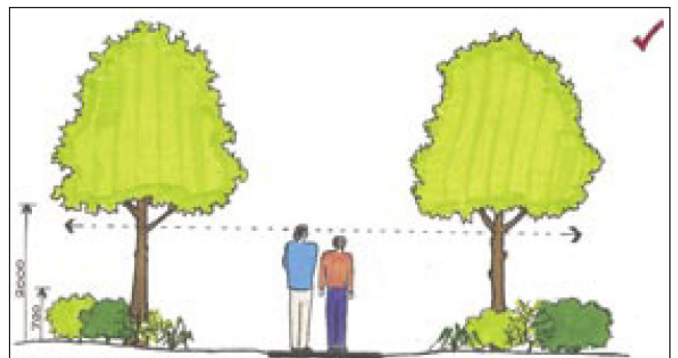
The Port Vila seafront development is a good example of design with crime prevention design principles in mind. A high quality environment, well lit and well maintained by Port Vila City Council.

The diagonal see-through siding on the handicraft market is designed to ensure there is always a line of sight into and out of the building. Plantings are low to medium height mixed with taller trees, to maintain a line of sight when outside.

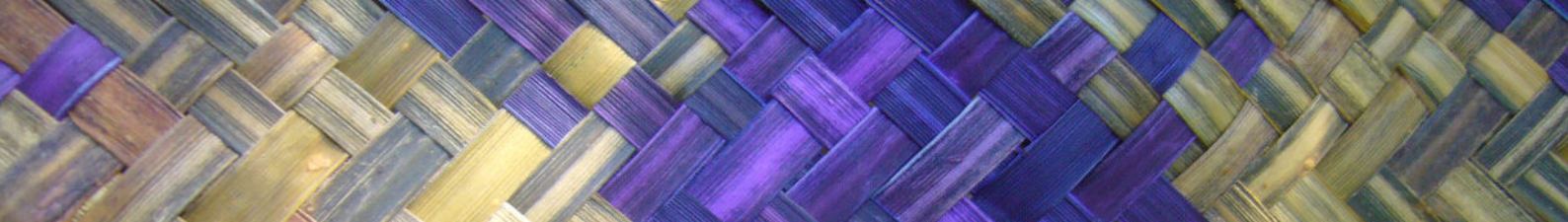
Port Vila City Council is thinking about crime prevention and cost effective maintenance as it plans and undertakes beautification and maintenance in the open spaces in their communities.



Port Vila seafront.



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Think criminal!

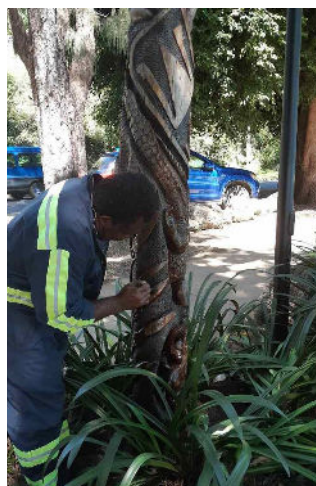
Crime and antisocial behaviour are more likely to occur where:

- > Pedestrian routes are poorly lit;
- > Streets, footpaths and alleyways provide access to the rear of buildings;
- > It is easy for people to become lost or disoriented;
- > Buildings and spaces (including plantings) are not designed to allow people to see “outside” from the “inside” and vice versa;
- > There is no mechanical or organised surveillance e.g cameras or security guards; and
- > Places are untidy or unattractive which gives the impression no-one cares.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The four key principles behind CPTED are:

1. Natural surveillance - people are present and can see what is going on. Locate public services in busy areas, and provide a clear line of sight;
2. Access management – attract people to some places and restrict people from others. Ensure entry ways are clear and use plantings to "direct" people;
3. Territorial reinforcement – encourage community “ownership” of open spaces. Clear boundaries between public and private spaces; and
4. Quality environment – good quality and well maintained places attract people and more people provide natural surveillance.



The New Zealand Ministry of Justice has developed guidelines to support safer places.

1. Part 1: Seven Qualities of Safer Place
www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/cpted-part-1.pdf
2. Part 2: Implementation Guide
www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/cpted-part-2.pdf

About PacificTA

PacificTA’s mission is to help improve the quality of life for citizens in Pacific Island countries.

We have a wealth of knowledge among our local government teams in New Zealand and across the Pacific. PacificTA allows these experts to share experiences – what works, what doesn’t – so improvements are made and mistakes are not repeated.

Funded by the New Zealand Government’s aid programme, PacificTA trains and mentors local public service managers and equips them with the knowledge and technical expertise to better manage essential public infrastructure and services.

Get in touch to keep up to date with PacificTA

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