



**Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)
Oriole Park
Toronto, ON
March 12, 2008 at 10:00am**

Present: Gemma Broderick (CPTED Certified), Crime Prevention Association of Toronto, P.C. Rick Langstone (CPTED Certified), 53 Division Crime Prevention Officer, Patricia Jensen (Neighbourhood Watch contact), Toronto City Councillor Michael Walker, Chris Sellors (Councillor's office)

Community Concern

A concerned resident and Neighbourhood Watch contact contacted the Crime Prevention Association of Toronto, 53 Division and the Councillor with safety concerns regarding Oriole Park. Due to the concerns raised regarding undesirables, minor incidents and the park environment a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment of the park in Toronto was conducted. The concern raised by the resident is that the park needs to be safe for users and residents of the neighbourhood. The resident states that the park attracts undesirables and undesirable activity due to poor lighting, thick vegetation and other environmental/physical problems. Gemma Broderick suggested a CPTED assessment to address the communities concerns and make recommendations on improvements. The resident and neighbourhood have proactively decided to attempt to prevent the risk of crime by having the grounds assessed in relation to safety and security.

The following is a review of the walk about that was conducted on the property and various recommendations made in accordance with CPTED principles. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted) is a proactive crime fighting technique which believes that the proper design and effective use of a built environment can lead to the reduction of crime; in addition to an improvement of the quality of life for residents within the community. Our aim is to identify problem areas and work to correct them in order to reduce criminal opportunity.

Overall, the park is in good condition! It appears to be very well maintained and free from debris creating a clean and inviting appearance. Calls for service to police and crimes reported for Oriole Park are very minimal; however there have been some incidents. Features such as a clean and well kept property and proactive residents all

contribute to an overall effective crime prevention environment. It is important that residents do not rely solely upon cameras or police. Crime prevention involves a combination of several proactive measures, not just reactive measures.

The following recommendations are specific to the walk-about that was conducted; however most recommendations can be applied to other similar areas of concern in the park.

Park:

- There are plans to rebuild the park.
- Overall, the park is clean and inviting for legitimate users.
- The park is used by residents living in the area and as a pathway to those travelling to other areas of the division.
- The lights in the park are currently on timers.
- There is no visible graffiti on the building near the baseball diamond. It is recommended that any future occurrences of graffiti be reported to police and the city. The quick removal of graffiti is the most effective means to prevent further acts of vandalism.
- The baseball diamond is used in the summer season. All legitimate uses and users of the park should be encouraged. This will deter non-legitimate users or undesirable activity.
- The outdoor ice rink is closed down. It is recommended that this ice rink be used in winter months to attract legitimate users to the park.
- The lights over the baseball diamond only stay on in the summer; it is suggested that these lights also come on during winter season to illuminate the area and deter undesirable activity.
- It is evident during the walk about, that there are responsible and legitimate users of the space (walk-way, walking dogs, bicycle path etc). This is important because it allows the space to be used for the intended purpose and it shows that users are not afraid to use the park on a regular basis.
- There is a concern that the park is being used as an off-leash area for dogs. It is suggested that more signage be placed around the park that states that dogs have to be on a leash and owners are required to poop and scoop.
- Overall, the park has a relatively clear line of sight. However, especially during the summer season, all trees need to be trimmed up 3 to 5 feet from the ground to create and maintain a clear line of sight through the pathways. This allows users to see where they are going and be aware of their surroundings. It also reduces entrapment areas and increases witness potential.
- The light poles have reflective covers which is good for directing illumination on the pathways; however it is suggested that that the light poles be lowered for more direct light.
- It is recommended that the lighting be changed from the older, low sodium yellow lighting to brighter, whiter lighting.
- The evergreen trees especially need trimmed up 3 to 5 feet.

- There is parking in the area which is used by several vehicles. This parking provides an eye on the park; as it increases vehicle traffic and pedestrian traffic in the area. It also provides a greater chance of witness potential in the park area.
- All picnic tables should be moved towards the edge of the park instead of scattered and hidden. The picnic tables should be used by legitimate users of the park and directing them away from hidden areas encourages this.
- If graffiti becomes a problem in the park then it is suggested to have a mural painted on the green boxes or buildings to prevent acts of vandalism.
- The business yard located beside the park is well lit at night providing illumination into the park.
- The tennis courts need updated and maintained so that legitimate users can use the space.
- It is recommended that an additional light pole be erected from the corner fixture (25 meters) near Froscher Avenue. This would provide more illumination for the path.
- It is recommended that the picnic tables be closer to the path instead of an isolated area near the tennis courts.
- There is a lot of pedestrian traffic in the park which is excellent.
- The old tree near the children's play set is a safety hazard. It is recommended that the tree be examined and taken down if needed.
- An additional light pole needs to be erected in the path near the children's play set.
- There is some graffiti on the playground fixtures. This needs to be removed quickly.
- There is graffiti on the back of a resident's fencing which needs to be cleaned up by the owner (Chaplin Crescent).
- There is graffiti on the back of the washroom building which also needs cleaned off.
- An additional light pole needs to be erected in the middle of the path near Chaplin Crescent and Colin Avenue.
- There is an entrapment area in the corner, near the pathway. It is recommended that all bushes be trimmed back to create a clear line of sight and reduce entrapment areas or areas where someone can remain hidden.
- It is recommended that the corner light pole be moved towards the path and that the cover be changed to a reflective light cover. This will direct more illumination towards the path area.
- There is some graffiti on the light pole that needs to be removed.
- It is recommended that all lighting be upgraded to the photo-electric cell lighting. This will enable the lights to come on when it is dark outside.

It is evident that the Councillor and residents are motivated and enthusiastic about the prospect of improving the community. The everyday mobilization of community members and business owners, as partners in maintaining community safety, can be very effective. Should you have any questions or

comments please feel free to contact Gemma Broderick, Crime Prevention and Youth Coordinator at the Crime Prevention Association of Toronto at 416-225-1102 or P.C. Rick Langstone, Crime Prevention officer at 53 Division, at 416-808-5337.

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