

# San Diego County Sheriff's Department



## Rancho San Diego Station Crime Prevention Unit

**Date:** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**To:** Nicole Conklin, Director of Public Safety

**From:** Nancy Ortiz, Crime Prevention Specialist. Accompanied with co-worker: Taylor Linhart, Nicole Conklin Public Safety Director and Security guard Maria.

**Re:** CPTED Recommendations for Cuyamaca College; 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon, CA. 92019. Walk-thru was initiated 5-5-2022.

The following report is the preliminary **CPTED** (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) recommendations for Grossmont College Campus.

By definition, **CRIME PREVENTION** is the **RECOGNITION, ANTICIPATION, and APPRAISAL OF A CRIME RISK**, and **POSITIVE ACTION TAKEN TO REMOVE THE RISK.**

*CPTED is used to develop safety into design. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is comprised of four key elements: Surveillance, Access Control, Territoriality, and Maintenance.*

**Surveillance:** Natural Surveillance involves the location and use of physical features, electrical devices, mechanical devices, and activities and people to maximize visibility. Natural surveillance utilizes design features to increase the visibility of a property or building. The proper placement and design of windows, lighting, and landscaping increases the ability of those who care to observe intruders as well as regular users, and thus provides the opportunity to challenge inappropriate behavior or report it to law enforcement or the property owner. When natural surveillance is used to its greatest advantage, it maximizes the potential to deter crime by making the offender's behavior more easily noticeable to a passing individual, law enforcement patrol, or private security.

**Access Control:** Natural access control is the physical guidance of people coming in going from space by the judicious placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping and lighting. Shrubs, fences, and gates deny admission to a crime target and convey the message that there is a risk in selecting the target. Physical and mechanical means of access control includes locks, bars, and alarms (traditionally known as “target hardening”) and can supplement natural access control measures if needed. A fence around a neighborhood playground is an example of an access control measure that protects children from wandering off and inhibits entry of potential offenders.

**Territoriality:** Territoriality employs such design elements as sidewalks, landscaping, and porches to help distinguish between public and private areas and helps users exhibit signs of “ownership” that send “hands off” messages to would be offenders. The use of the above-mentioned design features coupled with activities can express ownership and control of the environment while promoting neighborhood pride. These techniques discourage the presence of outsiders by delineating private and semi-private spaces, controlling the movement of people and vehicles and making someone responsible for maintaining all spaces in the neighborhood.

**Maintenance:** Allows the continued use of space for its intended purpose. Maintains the effectiveness of measures employed for surveillance, access control, and territoriality. A maintenance program ensures proper care of the property in a timely fashion and provides proactive prevention against blight.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Surveillance:

Based on the walk-thru of the campus, we strongly suggest placing two cameras: one at each entrance of the campus. This is where the most vehicle and pedestrian traffic occurs on the campus. Having proper signage where the cameras are located is another deterrent to help prevent crime. See the pictures below for specific location recommendations.

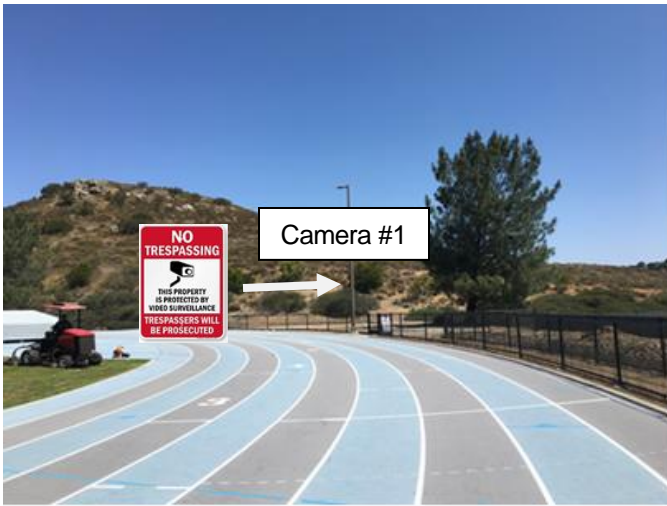






These two cameras are of high importance because everyone entering the campus will observe the cameras and the signs. This will also create a recorded timestamp for every person/vehicle that enters the campus; if there is to be a crime acknowledged crime on the campus.

To protect the 1.2 million dollar track and field, we suggest to place a minimum of two cameras. This will provide 24 hour security for this specific area. One camera placed in the track area will easily provide the flexibility of oversight during afterhours and on weekends. Due to trespassing and current vandalism issues, we recommend a second camera behind the tennis courts and placed outside the wight room. See pictures below for recommended camera location:



Another location on the campus that would benefit in having a surveillance camera is near the annex boxes (1&2). This area provides access to the sport field and overlooks an area of the campus that homeless/transients congregate.



### Territoriality:

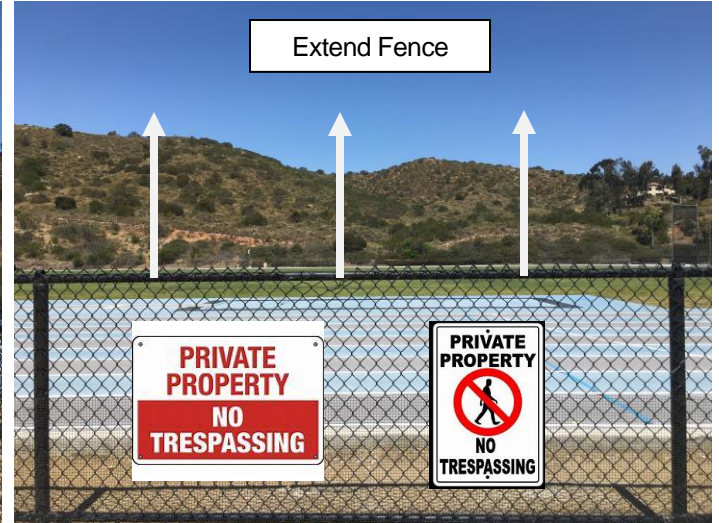
- There needs to be more signage of NO TRESPASSING on the campus; specifically near the CDC parking lot and areas that is restricted to students.
- Post "No Trespassing" (Penal Code 602) signs in areas where transients or unauthorized individuals solicit.
- The recommended placement of cameras and signs indicating surveillance in progress are highly important when it comes to preventing crime.



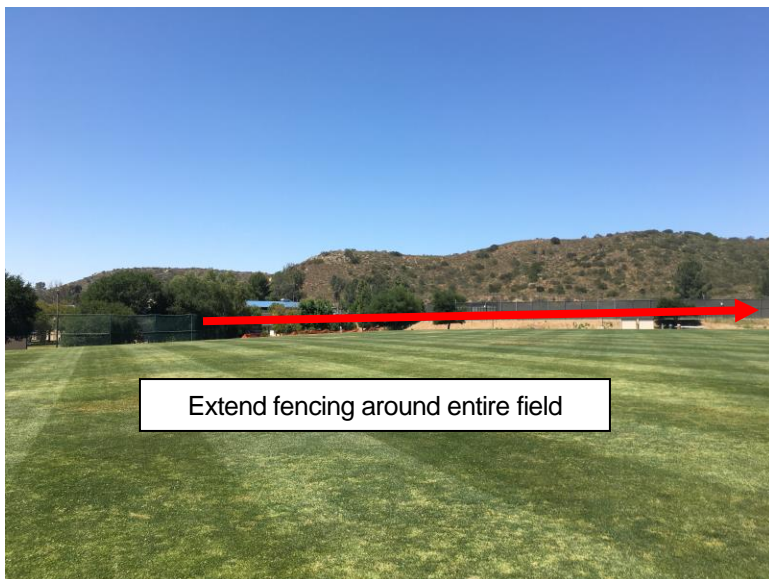


## Access Control:

To address un-restricted access to the track and field, we recommend placing a 6-foot decorative fence around the entire track. It is important to have a locking mechanism on a gate to this fence to prevent trespassing and further damage to the track. We also recommend placing "No Trespassing" or "Private Property" signs to further deter someone from trespassing. Pictured below is the fencing already in place that we recommend these changes to:



Due to high trespassing, we also recommend placing a fence around the entire sports field and adding "No Trespassing" signs. Currently there is a short fence that surrounds half of the field, and it is very important to extend the current fencing and continue this fencing all the way around. It is also important to have a proper gate that contains a locking mechanism. Pictured below are the areas where the fencing should extend and where we recommend a proper gate be placed:



## Maintenance:

To help prevent crime from occurring we also recommend trimming any bushes or trees in any area the vandalism is occurring. This helps to eliminate the ability to hide while vandalizing the property. It is important to keep bushes trimmed no higher than 2ft and trees should have a 6ft clearance from the ground up. Keeping these areas cleared also prevents trespassing of homeless who tend to utilize these areas to sleep. It is also important to have proper signage and keep up the maintenance of the current signage. Pictured below is a sign that we recommend replacing:



The Rancho San Diego Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit is committed to promoting safety and service to the community and recommends that this assessment is used for guidance for future planning.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very respectfully,

***Nancy Ortiz/ Taylor Linhart***

*Crime Prevention Specialist*

Rancho San Diego Sheriff's Station

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