

## SAFEGROWTH DEFINED

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### **What is SafeGrowth?**

The SafeGrowth model was developed by Gregory Saville as an integrative planning process for creating safe neighborhoods, improving local trust and cohesion among residents, and reducing crime and fear.

SafeGrowth is an extension of the Smart Growth movement in urban planning. Most of the customary Smart Growth design principles apply such as sustaining ecological capacity, human scale design, and transit oriented development. SafeGrowth also focuses on building a local capacity to create and sustain safe communities at a small neighborhood scale.

It employs five planning steps along with local non-profit associations to help neighbours learn how to create and self-regulate their own safety in collaboration with service providers and prevention experts.

- community engagement
- the neighbourhood profile
- local priorities
- SafeGrowth Plan
- results and Plan revisions

Most important, it requires the formulation of a SafeGrowth plan with measurable strategies to sustain and enhance development in that specific neighborhood. From this perspective, safety is seen as the product of a well-developed neighborhood. Thus, one goal of SafeGrowth is not for experts to apply prevention strategies to problems. It is for neighborhood inhabitants organized as a coherent, non-profit association to work with experts and service providers to learn how to create safe, vital and sustainable places.

### **SafeGrowth Strategies**

SafeGrowth differs from other crime prevention approaches such as CPTED in that it is a coherent planning process for getting things done. However, SafeGrowth does in fact employ a number of strategies. Strategies in SafeGrowth usually begin by applying the CPTED method - crime prevention through environmental design. There are three versions of CPTED in SafeGrowth:

1. *1<sup>st</sup> Generation CPTED / Basic* – Basic strategies include access control, natural surveillance and lighting, and maintenance;

2. **1<sup>st</sup> Generation CPTED / Advanced** – Advanced strategies include movement predictors and wayfinding, crime generators, positive displacement control, and conflicting user groups;
3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Generation CPTED** – These include social factors such as neighborhood cohesion, community culture, and connectivity to outside agencies. They also included a review of security procedures, such as tenant screening and assessing the demographics and capacity of the buildings.

The initial work to test the SafeGrowth model began in 2000 with field projects at the Center for Advanced Public Safety Research at the University of New Haven. Today it is practiced in various planning and development agencies ranging from Saskatoon, Canada to national programs of the Local Initiative Support Corporation in New York. It is currently led by AlterNation, a North American consultancy specializing in community safety.

### **Recent publications and case studies about SafeGrowth**

Saville, Gregory (2009) SafeGrowth: Moving Forward in Neighborhood Development. *Built Environment*. 31 (3), pp. 386-403.

Mangat, Mona and Saville, Gregory (2009) *SafeGrowth: Creating Safety and Sustainability Through Community Building and Urban Design*. Community Safety Paper Series. New York: MetLife Foundation and LISC/CSI. Available at [http://www.policefuturists.org/pdf/LISC\\_SafeGrowth\\_final.pdf](http://www.policefuturists.org/pdf/LISC_SafeGrowth_final.pdf).

Miller, Elisabeth (2008) A new type of CPTED: SafeGrowth in Saskatoon. *CPTED Perspective*. 7(3), pp. 3-4. Available at <http://www.cpted.net/PDF/newsletters/perspective3.pdf>.

Saville, Gregory and Cleveland, Gerard (2008) Second Generation CPTED: The rise and fall of opportunity theory. In R. Atlas (ed.) *21<sup>st</sup> Century Security and CPTED*. New York: CRC Press, pp. 79-90.