



Community Trees Reduce Crime.

A SIMPLE STEP FOR SAFETY

Outdoor spaces with natural landscapes see less graffiti, vandalism, and littering than comparable plant-less spaces.²



Public housing and apartments with **greater amounts of vegetation had fewer property and violent crimes** than buildings with low amounts of vegetation.³

Exposures to green space within 1,000 meters around homes were associated with **reduced aggressive behaviors.**⁴



REFERENCES:

¹ Garofalo, J. (1981). *The Fear of Crime: Causes and Consequences*. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 72 (2) (1981): 839–857.

² Brunson, L. (1999) "Resident Appropriation of Defensible Space in Public Housing: Implications for Safety and Community." Doctoral Dissertation, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL.

³ Kuo, F.E; Sullivan, W.C. (2001). "Environment and Crime in the Inner City: Does Vegetation Reduce Crime? *Environment and Behavior* 33.3. Web. <http://www.outdoorfoundation.org/pdf/EnvironmentAndCrime.pdf>.

⁴ Younan, D., et al. (2016). Environmental determinants of aggression in adolescents: Role of urban neighborhood greenspace. *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*, Volume 55, Issue 7, Pages 591–601.

Picture this scene: It's a cool fall evening. Neighbors in an apartment complex are coming outside to enjoy the nice weather. They are congregating in green spaces around their building, chatting with each other as the children play. No graffiti can be found on any of the brick walls and no one is concerned about safety as the sun sets.

Crime and the fear of crime affects both victim and community alike.¹ It is important to take proactive steps to keep neighborhoods safe, particularly in low- and moderate-income areas. Many community crime prevention efforts are including improvements to a community's physical environment — including the addition of green space with trees.

Planting trees in parks, along streets, and on private property not only helps to improve the physical environment and character of a community; it can reduce neighborhood crime. In addition, organized planting projects that involve residents strengthen social cohesion and trust — creating an environment where people work together to build a close-knit community that is more resilient to crime.

WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- Encourage tree planting among homeowners through rebates and education.
- Focus community tree planting efforts in parks and along streets in neighborhoods without proper tree cover.
- Connect with local police departments on the benefit of trees in reducing crime and using trees in community outreach efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to improving your community with trees.

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