

Read the text about how safe green cities are. First decide whether the statements (1–7) are true (T) or false (F) and put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision. Write the first 4 words of this sentence in the space provided. There may be more than one correct answer; write down only one. The first one (0) has been done for you.



Crime rate in green cities

Who doesn't love a tree? Apparently criminals. Researchers have found that leafier places in Baltimore tend to have lower crime rates than those with few or no trees.

A new study looking across Baltimore City and Baltimore County has found that with few exceptions, the frequency of crimes reported in a particular block or neighborhood goes down as the tree cover gets thicker. Just a 10 percent increase in leaf canopy was associated with a 12 percent drop in crime, it concluded.

The study, published online in the journal *Landscape and Urban Planning*, supports arguments by advocates that environmental factors, and not just more police, can fight crime. And it challenges the notion that thick vegetation gives cover to car thieves, muggers and other would-be criminals.

"It stands to reason," said Sarah Lord, head of Baltimore's forestry board, "because a shade tree allows you to sit out on your steps and be more neighborly and watch out for the community."

While shrubs may shield bad behavior, mature, well-tended trees do just the opposite, said J. Morgan Grove, a social ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service and one of the study's three authors. That could be important for a city like Baltimore, where trees cover just 27 percent of its landscape and some neighborhoods are practically barren.

The study, underwritten by the Forest Service and the National Science Foundation, looked only at the statistical relationship between trees and crime, without trying to prove cause and effect. But Grove, who is part of a wide-ranging, long-running ecological study of Baltimore, had a couple of theories about why trees might curb criminal activity.

Trees "get people outside," he said in a recent interview while walking around Franklin Square, a West Baltimore neighborhood with both leafy and treeless blocks. Shady streets are cooler in summer, encouraging people to sit or stroll outside. And criminals likely avoid places where their deeds might be spotted and reported, Grove suggested.

It is also likely that a block lined with healthy trees encourages troublemakers to see it as a tight-knit area where people look out for each other, Grove added.

That is a variation on the "broken-window" theory that suggests visible signs of disrepair like a broken window tend to encourage vandalism and escalating criminal activity if not remedied.

"In the tree world, we call it the 'empty tree pit' theory," said Grove, referring to the holes cut in sidewalks to accommodate trees. "If you have trees in the pits they are symbols of the fact that the neighborhood is cared about. If they see you breaking into someone's car, they are going to call the cops."

Another study, also by Forest Service researchers, of 2,800 homes in Portland, Ore., found fewer crimes around places with many large, mature trees. But the Baltimore

study is the first to analyze such a large area, Grove said.

Using Spotcrime, an online crime mapping service, the researchers developed an index of all robberies, burglaries, thefts and shootings reported throughout the city and county from 2007 to 2010. Researchers mapped tree canopy information from satellite imagery and then fed all the data into a computer to match it up, filtering out other factors that might influence the results, such as income.

The link to reduced crime was most apparent on public land, such as parks, schoolyards and other government property with lots of mature trees. But tree-lined streets and avenues also had somewhat lower criminal activity.

Grove said he hoped the study's findings would boost and help guide tree-planting efforts in Baltimore.

0	Data proved the opinion wrong that only law and order offers protection.
1	Any kind of greenery keeps offenders away.
2	The survey examined reasons for the link between green areas and violence.
3	Crime rates rise in well-frequented places.
4	It is believed that a run-down building invites people to break the law.
5	Misbehavior is connected to the size of green spaces.
6	Experts collected information on various illegal activities all across the USA.
7	State and privately owned real estate showed the same decrease in illegal acts.

Crime rate in green cities

	T	F	First four words
0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>The study, published online</i>
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Von der
Lehrperson
auszufüllen

richtig falsch

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