Overview

Over the past 50 years, urban residential trends have changed, and urban areas have become much more intense. Over the past few years, New Orleans has received considerable national publicity regarding its high crime rate, which has to hinder recruiting.

Besides demonstrating that the university is aware of conditions in surrounding neighborhoods and increasing the number of security guards, it's important that physical or environmental design encourage strong and positive social behavior. This starts with cooperation (good relationships between Tulane and its neighbors), and finishes with designs that force the unwelcome to feel uncomfortable, and hopefully obvious.

Tulane's presence provides a positive effect on its surroundings - by keeping the neighborhood viable and active with people, it serves to naturally discourage opportunities to lurk and be unnoticed. Students and faculty occupy surrounding housing, also providing economic benefits.

Besides quality of maintenance, the actual design of a facility or area can have much to do with crime or security conditions. An area that appears inviting and naturally attracts involvement will be viable and active - like the Pocket Park. The design encourages personal social activity, and bears positive psychological effect - like Mardi Gras. People are comfortable and more relaxed.

The design of the campus must portray this to enrich itself, as a natural deterrent to weakening physical and social environment. McAlister Drive should be renovated to this effect.

Physical improvements must extend beyond the campus property lines. If the surrounding neighborhoods improve, so too will the university.

The university also has an obligation as a member of the community, as a leader, to take initiative to bringing about improvements to surrounding conditions.
Bibliography
