Studies have found that plants account for lower crime rates in cities. When city buildings have trees and well-maintained vegetation, the communities are healthier and safer.

One study of inner-city Chicago housing communities compared architecturally similar buildings and found that those with higher levels of vegetation had 52 percent fewer total crimes.

Furthermore, there were 48 percent fewer property crimes and 56 percent fewer violent crimes than those with lower levels of vegetation.

A Portland, Oregon, study looked at the effects of street trees on crime rates and found they resulted in a reduction in all types of crime, including burglary and vandalism. The presence of larger trees on residential streets reduced crime too.

Plants promote safety and cut crime.

By Elizabeth Petersen
From Green Cities, Good Health — http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/

SOURCES:

Along North Carrollton Avenue in Baltimore, neighborhood street trees are pruned for greater visibility, which helps to deter crime. PHOTO BY RICHARD CONNIFF