

Radford Resilience

Towards a proactive assessment of school safety and preparedness (A case study in small-town America)

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Background

- School-based Shootings in the U.S. since 1999
- Reactive versus Proactive Preparedness
- The CPTED Framework
- Radford Public Schools/Belle Heth Elementary
- Current Preparedness Protocol: “Run-Hide-Fight” (No CPTED)

Project Goals

- Photo and video documentation of risk level for active shooter incident...is the school district at risk?
- 2D and 3D mapping of school grounds for active shooter and emergency response training
- Formal CPTED Analysis and Reporting
- Research and analytical framework for future RCPS analyses

Study Design

- Interior walkthrough (Digital recorders, Canon SLRs)
- Exterior walkthrough (Drone flights x 2)
- Employed CPTED framework from USDOJ - C.O.P.S. (Zahm, 2007)

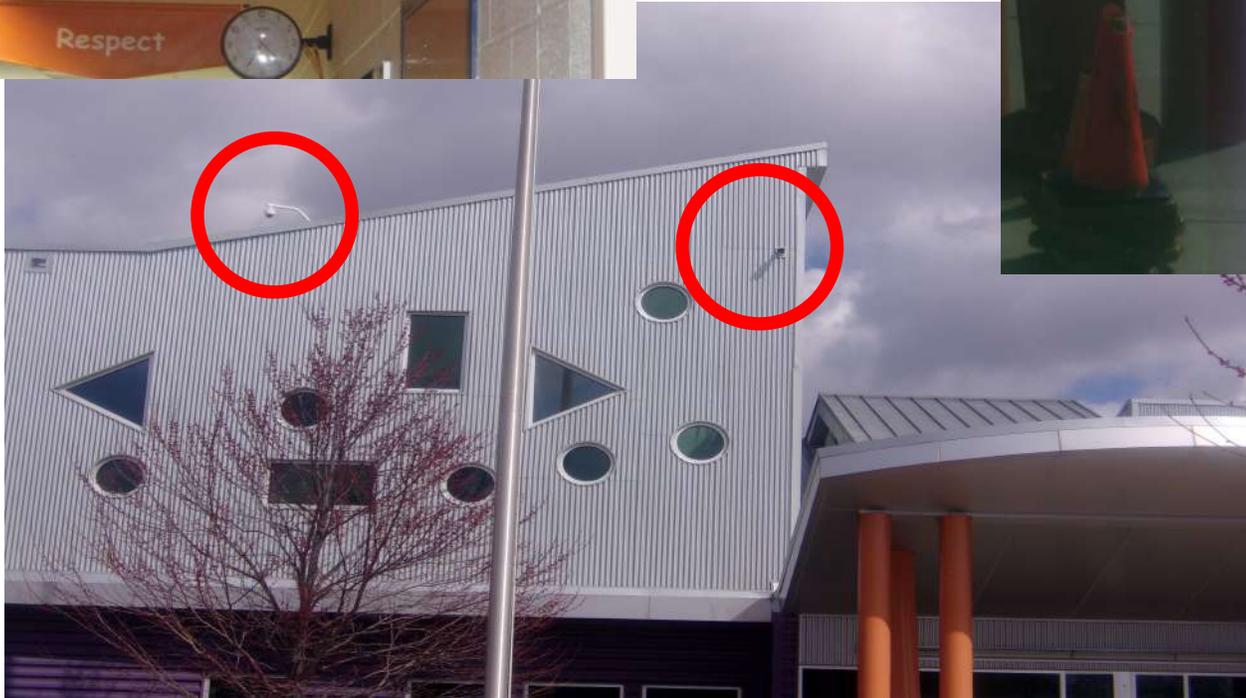
Radford County Public Schools (RCPS)

- Four schools:
Belle Heth, McCarg, Dalton, Radford High
- Student vs. total faculty/staff population:
Belle Heth: 482/32 (15:1)
McCarg: 386/24 (16:1)
Dalton: 269/22 (12:1)
Radford High: 509/39 (13:1)



Initial Observations

-- Much to applaud both inside and out...



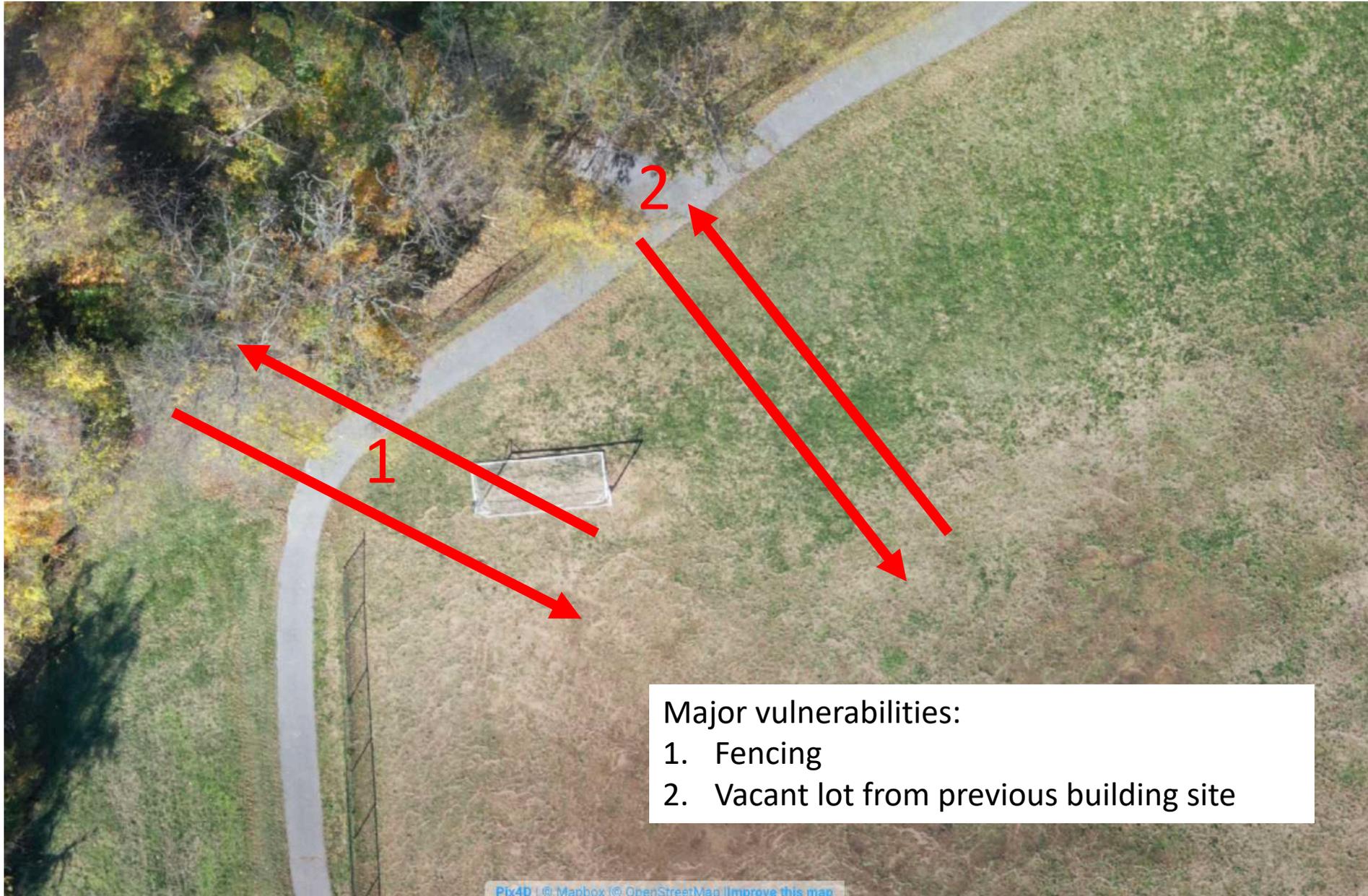
Initial Observations



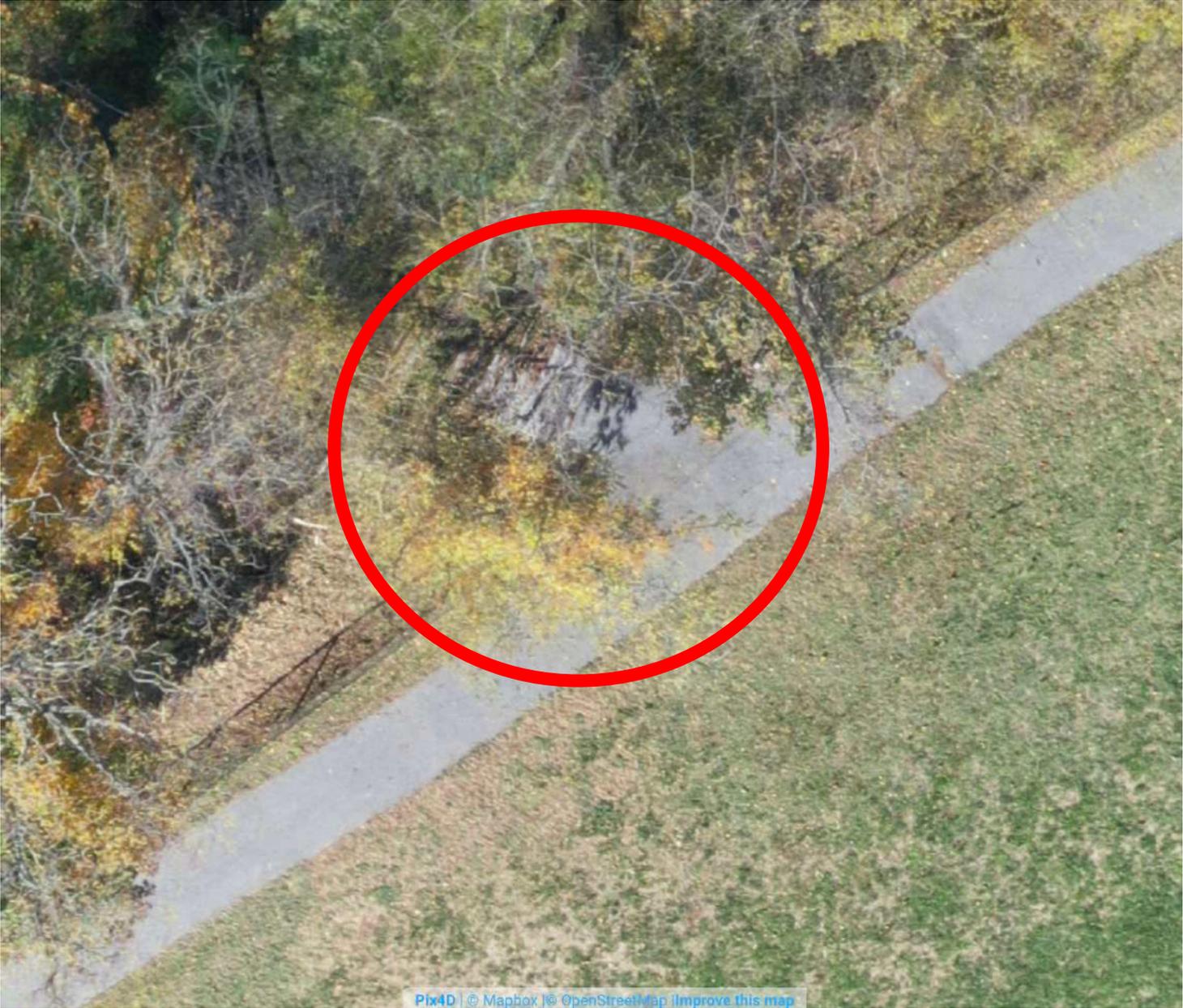
Major vulnerabilities:

1. Fencing
2. Vacant lot from previous building site
3. Vacant construction lot (off-premises)

BELLE HETH DRONE ZOOM-IN #1



BELLE HETH DRONE ZOOM-IN #2



CPTED Issue #1: Access



CPTED Issue #2: Surveillance

Improvements Made:



Fence extended...



...and secured

Improvements Made:



CPTED Issue #3: Access



CPTED Issue #4: Access

Improvements Made: Interior Door Installed w/ Interior Safety Lock



Recommendations

- Site visits must become more frequent; incorporated into annual routine
- Must overcome cultural apprehension/predisposition hindering such project, measures implementation
- Find ways to expand recruiting and incentivization of SROs
- Do not overlook the psycho-social elements; preventing school attacks alone via CPTED won't do

References and Questions

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