

“Broken Windows Effect” Series of Strange Events That Led To “Homeless Encampment” or Trash Areas

A pattern of unusual activity appeared to develop gradually within and around the area beneath the bridge and nearby trails. Over time, the environment shifted from appearing relatively ordinary to becoming increasingly unstable, “ghettoized” and uncomfortable and unsafe feeling in atmosphere.

The sequence of observations included:

- Trash beginning to accumulate in unusual quantities
- Shoes, including high heels, left behind in isolated areas
- A drink tied to the bridge, appearing intentionally placed
- Several newer bicycles parked beneath the bridge
- Small alcohol bottles and beer cans scattered beneath bushes throughout the surrounding area
- Scooter bike riders on nearby trails
- A drink thrown by vehicle at pedestrian, felt as “energy shifting” moment within the area
- Cat calling and disruptive behavior occurring nearby
- White paint thrown in the area, constituting possible vandalism
- Grocery carts beginning to accumulate over several weeks
- Increasing amounts of trash appearing throughout the environment
- A bed, couch, mirror, and clothing discovered beneath the bridge
- Multiple homeless encampments becoming visible
- Strange collections of objects contributing to a bizarre or uncomfortable atmosphere
- Several unfamiliar individuals repeatedly seen walking, observing, or lingering within the area
- Noticeable patterned cycles of visits and activity occurring over time

Taken together, these observations may suggest a progressive environmental and social deterioration process, where neglected public areas gradually become sites of disorder, transient activity, territorial signaling, dumping, loitering, substance use, or encampment formation. In some cases, repeated visible disorder can contribute to a phenomenon similar to the “broken windows” effect, where signs of neglect may encourage further neglect, dumping, vandalism, or disruptive behavior.

At the same time, it is important to distinguish between direct observations and assumptions about intent or coordinated activity. Objects left behind, repeated appearances of strangers, or unusual environmental conditions may feel unsettling without necessarily proving organized conduct. Environmental decline, lack of maintenance, social instability, homelessness, substance abuse, illegal dumping, opportunistic criminal activity, or informal gathering points can all contribute to similar patterns.

The accumulation of abandoned items, carts, furniture, alcohol containers, and improvised living materials often changes the emotional atmosphere of an area. People may begin

seeing the environment as unsafe, psychologically tense, or territorially altered. Once this occurs, community members frequently reduce their presence in the area, which can further accelerate neglect and instability.

This type of progression is commonly associated with:

- Environmental neglect
- Public nuisance activity
- Illegal dumping
- Encampment formation
- Territorial behavior
- Opportunistic crime environments
- Social disorder cycles
- Community disengagement from public spaces

Documenting dates, times, photographs, recurring objects, recurring individuals, maintenance failures, and changes in conditions over time can help distinguish between isolated incidents and larger environmental patterns.

At this time we have contacted the police, as well as the town of Tuscon, Arizona and submitted requests for both homeless encampments. I am currently waiting on a response from the town of Tuscon, Arizona. We are waiting for communication from the police and town as the area may be unsafe and should be investigated.