

PROBLEMSOLVER

LANDSCAPE TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS » BY H. BRUCE HELLERICK

PROBLEM

Keeping a property safe is always a concern. In this particular situation, an individual was walking on the sidewalk, saw a pretty flower along the wood line (left side) did not see the grade change and slipped and fell on the wet turf and fallen leaves. Thankfully, the individual was more embarrassed than angry. This situation could have turned bad with the “wrong individual” or if they had been injured. What could be done to correct this situation in the future?



SOLUTION

There are several options to reduce the chance of an accident like this happening again in the future. The first would be to post “No Trespassing” signs on the site. This may not sound neighborly but it does help protect you legally. Another option is to install fencing between the walk and tree line to prevent trespassing on the site. Depending upon the style of fence selected the fencing could be very expensive and could also add to the cost of maintenance in the future. In this case, it was decided to install “No Trespassing” signs and add soil on the wood line side to match the grade of the sidewalk. Adding the soil helped solve the grade change issue and still simplified maintenance. It is a landscape manager’s responsibility to recognize potential safety hazards on their customers’ sites and then take action or make clients aware of these problems before an injury occurs.

Every day you see horticultural problems. Sometimes the solution is obvious, but others are much more difficult to solve. Brickman Group Senior Horticulture Specialist H. Bruce Hellerick tackles these issues in Problem Solver. He can be reached at bhellerick@questex.com.