



# green SIDE UP

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL GREENERY LANDSCAPING

Serving Glynn, Camden, McIntosh, Wayne, Liberty, Bryan & Chatham Counties | MARCH 2021



## Traffic Control Affects Property Appearance

**The majority of landscapes are designed for functional, recreational and ornamental purposes. The unplanned or excessive use and enjoyment of these landscaped areas can cause serious injury and even the loss of turf and landscape plants.** Traffic is the term we apply to the off-road use by pedestrians or vehicles of your property.

Although most good landscape designs take into account the expected use of the property and the associated traffic effects, there's a very good chance that either cars and trucks or pedestrians will find and use shortcuts you and your planners had not anticipated. These unexpected routes across your landscape will eventually create traffic problems and the need to take traffic control measures. When traffic becomes excessive, it results in four basic problems: 1) turf grass wear, 2) soil compaction, 3) soil displacement, and 4) soil removal or divots. Of these, turf grass wear and soil compaction are the most common.

### How traffic turns beautiful turf into hard-pan trails of bare soil

Most strands of grass can recover fairly quickly from a weekend festival, occasional sporting events, or even being used as a short-term parking lot. But turfs are injured, seriously thinned, or completely killed by continued, concentrated traffic. The difference has a lot to do with the duration of the traffic. The harmful effects of this type of repeated, concentrated traffic on turf are collectively referred to as turf grass wear. On an occasional basis, the turf can recover. But when subjected to this type of treatment constantly, death to the turf will almost certainly occur.



The visible effects of traffic are readily seen in terms of turf grass wear. A second, less obvious effect occurs in the underlying soil and is sometimes referred to as the "hidden effect." The mechanical pressure of applied traffic results in soil compaction. This configuration of the soil severely restricts air and water movement. Even though this compaction takes place within only 2 or 3 inches of the soil surface, it can adversely affect turf grass performance and recovery potential.

All forms of continued, concentrated traffic that appear to be thinning the turf or compacting the soil should be avoided whenever possible. Design techniques should be employed to disperse and control the flow of traffic by creating acceptable traffic patterns.

## **Taking control of traffic by creating patterns that please**

Any attempt to create effective traffic patterns should receive practical as well as aesthetic consideration, accomplishing the goals of traffic control while enhancing the landscape. The first step is to determine the problem areas on your property. How do visitors get from the street, parking lot or drive to the entrance? Is there a problem where deliveries are received, trash removed, or outside maintenance equipment stored? Are there many sidewalks that consistently get their corners cut off?

You may want help with the next part - determining what to do about all those traffic problems. Do you want visitors or customers to move in and out quickly? The flow pattern of your landscaping helps speed things up or slow them down.

Traffic can be guided and controlled through the proper selection and placement of trees, shrubs walks and roadways. Walkways are the most obvious and in some ways the simplest form of traffic control. Plan walkways to stay on the wide rather than narrow side. Vary the width of walkways to create interest. Gentle curves and subtle changes in direction will direct traffic and also help create a more attractive and interesting landscape.



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# Team Member of the Month: March

**Tony Loper**  
*Golden Isles Branch*



**These are team members who display the company core values (Safety, Quality, Leadership, Relationships) in all that they do while working, have excellent attendance, and are constantly trying to improve themselves.**

*Our Operations Managers will vote for 1 team member each month from each branch who meet the above qualifications.*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TONY!**

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## **Choose materials based on the traffic being controlled**

The use of ornamental plants, hedges and shrubs to redirect traffic is usually preferred to fences, chains and posts because they enhance rather than detract from the natural beauty of the property. The design should offer as large a number of alternate routes from one location to another as possible.

Vehicle traffic control sometimes requires stronger measures. It can take a large boulder or substantial barricade to communicate effectively with the drivers of semi tractor-trailers. The rule in truck control is that to be effective, the obstacle must pose a substantial threat of damage to the truck before gaining the respect of drivers.

Traffic control is valuable in minimizing turf grass wear and soil compaction. Efforts to maintain an attractive appearance on any heavily used property must deal with traffic control to be successful. No turf can absorb continuous intensive traffic and remain healthy. When confronted with an area where the traffic flow is as intensive and continuous as to make it impossible to maintain a turf, alternate wear-tolerant surfaces should be installed. Depending on the location and surrounding landscape, these can include concrete, asphalt, wood mulch, pine straw, tanbark, sand, fine stone, brick or gravel. The alternate surface should be properly installed, capable of tolerating the anticipated traffic, have a minimum maintenance requirement and complement and unify other aspects of the landscape.





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## Relationships... the *roots* of our business.

**2021 is already starting out to be a GREAT year.**

We are assessing new equipment and materials while reviewing processes and procedures to help keep our team efficient and on top of your service. We are also using this month for more training and education for the entire CGI Team. We will be more equipped and ready to handle all your needs. Coastal Greenery is here to take the load of care and maintenance for your property off of your schedule and off of your mind. We want to make your property a haven for enjoyment and relaxation.

**As always, we thank you for you allowing Coastal Greenery to serve you. We look forward to serving you during this new year!**



Have a question or concern? We're here to help.

Contact the **COASTAL GREENERY** Team

**(912) 261-8171 | COASTALGREENERY.COM**    