



Date of Council Meeting: September 8, 2014

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Subject: Edwards Landing Park Trails

Staff Contact: John Wells, Town Manager

Background: Town staff has received a number of complaints from trail users within Edwards Landing Park concerning the horse traffic on the trail. Specifically, the horse droppings that is causing damage to the trail itself and certain areas due to the topography. The horse traffic is coming from the stables of the adjacent farm owned by the Dennis family. Since horses are not permitted on the trails, staff has installed signage at the trail heads prohibiting equestrian use. This resolved the problem.

Staff has since received a formal request from the adjacent property owner Mr. Renee Dennis requesting to permit equestrian usage on the park trail network leading to the Balls Bluff Regional Park. Parks Director Rich Williams along with Parks and Public Space Planner Bill Ference, met with Mr. Dennis and have developed a potential solution that they feel will work for the Dennis equestrian group, as well as the Parks and Recreation Department. The solution involves the creation of a dedicated equestrian cut through trail, in a different area of the park than what is used by walkers, and has topography more suitable for equestrian uses. It will provide the riders' access to the trail system of Balls Bluff Regional Park without impacting our current users. This potential resolution will be vetted through the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission before the trail would be blazed and opened for use.

This would be the only equestrian trail within our current parks system. Staff will be present to answer any questions.