

Dear Park Board Member,

On July 18, you will be voting on whether to allow biking on the Birch Trail in Lower Hixon Forest. If you aren't familiar with the Birch Trail, I'd like to invite you to hike it before the meeting. A loop consisting of the uppermost portions of the Vista and Bicentennial Trails, both of which are hike-bike, and the Birch Trail, which is hike-only, is about a mile long. It's fairly easy and takes 30 to 45 minutes. A map of the loop is attached, and here are directions:

1. Drive up Bliss Road to County FA and turn left.
2. Drive to the Upper Hixon Forest parking area just east of the weather station, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, and park there.
3. Cross the road. Down the hill a bit you'll see a large map of Lower Hixon Forest along a narrow path. From there you can go east or west on the path to start the loop.
4. Note the beautiful wooded stillness of the path and enjoy views from Zoerb Prairie and Birch Point Prairie, where restoration work is being done by Friends of the Blufflands.

