

Dear Board of Parks Commissioners members;

We are writing regarding the proposal to convert the Birch Trail in Hixon Forest to shared use. It is currently hike only.

We are against this change. We have been enjoying hiking in Hixon for many years. Historically, it had been a place for quiet contemplation, enjoying the natural beauty of our area, and learning about birds, wildlife, and plant life. Over the course of time and introduction of biking on some the trails it has become more difficult for hikers to have this experience. We believe it would be best for our community to leave Birch Trail hike only to allow hikers access to the few remaining hike only trails there are. Enjoying what Hixon Forest has to offer should be accessible to all community members, not just bikers. As hikers, it seems the biking community is pushing us out of Hixon instead of sharing with us.

Please consider the hiking community in your decision when you vote on this.

Thank you.

Becky Guinn and Ruth Devitt
Hixon Area Hikers
La Crosse