

# White's Woods and Flash

I visited White's Woods today. I have been doing this regularly for more than 30 years. White's Woods has provided me with many rewards: fun, exercise, peace and quiet, to mention only a few.

Today's visit was different. It was sad. I went there to scatter the ashes of my dog, Flash, my longtime running buddy. Today's visit was in memory of her and the good times we spent together running on the trails in White's Woods.

It was also a sad day in light of the recent decision by the White Township supervisors to allow "timber harvesting" in White's Woods. So I guess today's visit was perhaps also in memory of White's Woods as I have come to know it.

I will be moving from the Indiana area very soon, and I doubt that much of White's Woods will remain as it has over the last 37 years that I have lived here. It is a wonderful, natural place, but will it remain so? If I were to return in five or six years, what will it

look like? Will I be able to recognize it? Will it even exist?

During today's visit I did not find it in "deplorable condition." There were no "dead trees lying on the ground posing threats to hikers." The trails were clear and well marked. I ran on them as I have many times in the past.

I was saddened by the fact that I won't be able to do this much longer — not because I am moving, but because of the destruction and dangers that will result when work crews with heavy equipment invade the woods.

After the "harvesting," will the township supervisors, stewards for the well-being of White's Woods, ensure that a wonderful, natural woods will continue to thrive as such or for that matter, even survive? If not, this indeed was an especially sad day.

Long live the memory of Flash and the good times we had in White's Woods.

Hal Sommer  
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