



VHT Pathfinder

33+ YEARS AND GROWING

**Victor Hiking Trails
Winter 2023**

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AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE WALKABILITY STUDY

By Scott Reinhart, VHT Trail Master

Last winter, VHT was honored to be one of twenty-nine recipients selected from an applicant pool of thirty-six hundred to receive a \$2500 grant. The AARP Community Challenge grant supported a study of the “walkability” of an area of the Village of Victor bordered on the north by Main Street/Rt.96, on the south by the Auburn Trail, on the east by Maple Avenue, and on the westside by School Street. Members of VHT attended seminars presented by WalkAmerica, met with experienced, knowledgeable advisors, and reviewed provided materials in order to learn about the Walkability evaluation process. We learned that in order to successfully evaluate an area’s walkability, and to produce tangible recommendations for improvement, that we needed to conduct Walk Audits. Walk Audits consisted of volunteers, armed with clipboards, pens, and AARP provided forms, walking, observing, discussing and recording their findings while utilizing the walkability forms and vocabulary as guides.

Moving forward, we divided the set Village area into five sections, and scheduled two walk audits in each area. Each of the two walk audits in each area was scheduled for a different day of the week, and a different time of the day. The scheduled walk audits began on August 22nd with the final one completed on September 13th. One aspect of the walk audits was to observe and record the amount and type (bike, walker, stroller, etc.) of other users besides ourselves. In total, seventy-four volunteers participated in the ten walk audits.

Following each walk audit, the forms were collected and compiled. On December 18, 2023, the results were shared at a meeting of the Village’s Board of Trustees. The presentation included recommendations for each of the five areas. There were several recommendations that appeared in each section’s evaluation, and they were highlighted at the conclusion of the report. They are as follows:

- Bike Lanes - They are needed in every section, as well as attention needs to be paid to the ever growing number of bike riders.
- Benches & Shelters - Especially for our retirees. Regarding shelters, picture a bus stop shelter.
- Safer Crosswalks & Sidewalks - Our crosswalks could use flashing pedestrian lights, audible instructions, and longer crossing timers.
- Signage - Instructional signs (parking, directions to businesses, restrooms etc.) and historical sites
- Extending Sidewalks & Access - Where sidewalks are missing, add them. Link communities to the Village.
- Restrooms & Access to Water - If we want people to visit, restrooms and water should be added.
- Make the Village More Inviting - Utilize artwork, lights, creative use of pedestrian/road space to make the Village more attractive and inviting.

VHT 2024 Officers:

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 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Larry Fisher– Membership
 Jeff Miller – Education
 Paul Knerr— Volunteer
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VHT Pathfinder

Volume 28, Issue 4
 Winter 2023
*The Victor Hiking Trails
 Pathfinder* is published
 quarterly for the members
 of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

We encourage
 submissions of letters,
 editorial items and
 advertising pertaining to
 trails, Victor and the
 environment.

Ask about our rates.
 To submit articles for the
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 contact:

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VHT MONTHLY HIKES**2024 Hikes**

Jan 1– First Day Hike. Meet at Tennis Courts on Wangum Road
 Jan 13 – White Brook Nature Area. Perinton
 Feb 10 – Mendon Ponds Park, Quaker Pond
 Mar 9 – Fishers Park and More
 Apr 13 – Ganondagan State Historic Site
 May 11 – TBD
 Jun 1 – National Trails Day. Watch for details

Jan 28 – Bonna Terra Farms, Bloomfield

Feb —TBD

Mar 31— Oxbow and Harts Woods, Perinton

Apr 27—Invasive Species

May 26—Bird Watching

Green are Educational walks and meet at 2:00 PM

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minute updates. Also, if you join [https://www.meetup.com/ Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup](https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup), you will get notifications of hikes and other events, reminders if you are signed up for a hike, and last minute changes.

All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street, at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Most hikes are relatively easy and take 2-3 hours. Always bring a snack and something to drink. Dress for the weather. We rarely cancel due to inclement weather.

As noted in our schedule there are several educational hikes planned for 2023. These are usually on a Sunday afternoon, starting at 2:00 PM.

We usually carpool from Victor Town Hall to the trailhead. Expect to share the cost of gas with the driver. If you have any questions regarding any of the hikes, or if you have suggestions for places to hike, please leave a message at the VHT Message Line, 585-234-8226.

Again this year we have scheduled several hikes in Victor or the surrounding communities. We are also leading shorter and easier hikes to encourage families and younger hikers to join us.

Additional hikes with the Victor PTSA and the Victor Farmington Library will be scheduled throughout the year.

We only hike as fast as the slowest hikers, so don't worry about not keeping up. If we need to split into more than one group, that is not a problem. **Come enjoy the fun.**

NOTE: There are several hiking Meetup groups in our area that schedule hikes in Victor. If you like to hike, join those Meetup groups as well.

Past Hikes

Oct 14 — Ontario County Park. Paul Kneer led 3 others on a fast-paced, hilly hike on several of the trails located in the park. The trekkers covered 5 miles in about 2 hours. After the hike they went to the Little School House in Naples for some well deserved nourishment.



Nov 11– Lehigh Crossing Park and More.

Eight hardy hikers came out for a great hike on mostly flat trails. The group covered 4.5 miles in 2 hours on a bright, crisp morning. They learned a lot about the local history, especially the railroads that serviced Victor and Fishers.



Dec 9 — Dryer Road Park. Another nice hike on the hilly trails that mountain bikers enjoy. Nine hikers covered 4.5 miles in just under 2 hours. It was a good workout for a Saturday morning.



Educational Hikes

Sept 30 – The Bird House

Liz Magnanti, owner of The Bird House on Monroe Avenue in Pittsford, gave a lecture on how to attract birds to your backyard in the fall. She is very knowledgeable and presents the information in laymen terms. Plus her store has everything you need to attract all species of birds.



Oct 29 — Old Village Cemetery, Victor. Gravestone rubbing. Cancelled due to lack of interest.

Nov 26 — Shortsville Reindeer Farm. Wonderful afternoon learning so many facts about the reindeer. The owners started this on a whim as a hobby and now it is a thriving business. A great family adventure and you can feed the reindeer.



Dec 17 — Lamberton Conservatory, Highland Park. What a great experience to see all the flowers in the glass house. There were 17 members who learned all about flowers and greenhouses. Our guide Noelle was extremely informative about all of the plants.



Photos by Jeff Miller and Dave Wright

What are these strange blobs I see on signs?

You may have noticed on some of our signs on the trails a square with strange black markings and wondered what they might be. Quite simply, they are like a bar code that you see on every package at the grocery store. Except these are a short cut to take you to a website. They are called QR codes.

To use a QR code, turn on your smart phone camera and point it at the QR code. Hold the phone steady. When the camera recognizes the code, tap the screen and the website will come up.

Try it here:



Help VHT buy a new mower

After 30 years of service, it is time to replace our oldest brush cutter with a new one. These are heavy-duty mowers that sometime cut thick brush and small trees. They take a beating and keep on cutting.

Unfortunately, they are expensive. The one that we need is now \$5500, but they are well worth it. Our mowing season runs from May to October and we are cutting the trails 3 times a week for 1 to 2 hours each session..

We are selling neck gaiters and asking for donations earmarked for this purchase. So far, we have only collected a couple of hundred dollars.

As we approach the end of 2023, please consider making a special donation so that we can continue to keep the trails in great shape for 2024. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so your donation could be a tax deduction if you file the long form method. Every dollar counts.



Victor Farmington Library Hikers

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM a group of walkers meet at the Victor Farmington Library, 15 West Main Street in the village of Victor for an easy 1 to 2 hour walk. Sometimes they stay within the village limits and sometimes they carpool to a local park or trail.

After the hike many of the folks go to the Busy Bean Café for a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. It's a great opportunity to get to know your fellow walkers.

You can sign up on the VHT Meetup page or just show up at the library.



Some great folks out on some great Wednesday morning walks in Victor.

Trail Maintenance

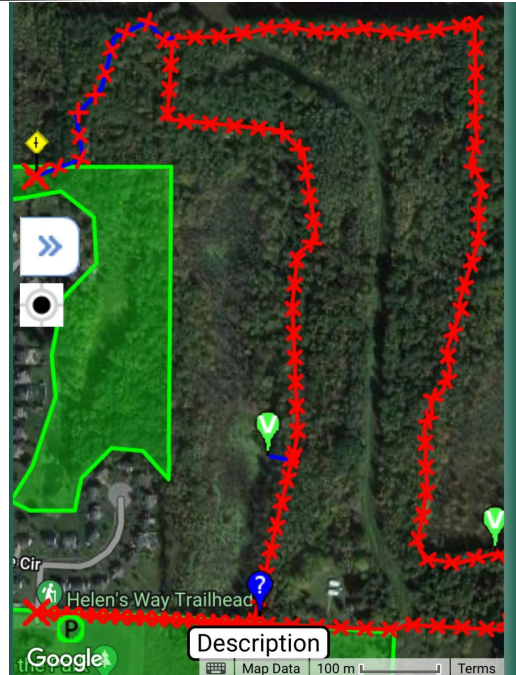
All of our trail maintenance equipment has been winterized and put in our temporary storage unit. The Town of Victor has generously donated the cost of the first six months. In the meantime, VHT is looking for a more permanent, long-term solution.

If you are out hiking or biking on the trails and see something that needs our attention, please send an email to Trailboss@VictorHikingTrails.org. A photo and the location is always helpful.

New Trail Connection

Thanks to property owners Paul Bishop and his children, we now have a connection between Helen’s Way and The Village on the Park trails. The new connection is called the Lazy J Pass and will be blazed with blue paint when the weather gets warmer.

As shown in the photo, the trails are currently closed for hunting. After December 31st, check out the new addition and let us know what you think.



Trail Counts

We purchased 3 trail counters when we were conducting the Victor Village walkability audit study. We placed one on the Auburn Trail, one on Maple Avenue and one on School Street to get an idea of how many people are using the trail and sidewalks.

The findings and numbers are quite interesting. One of the pieces of data that you can look at is the average daily count by month. Here is what it looks like so far:

LOCATION	OCT	NOV
Auburn Trail	70	54
Maple Ave	47	33
School St	34	33

So this shows that more people are using the Auburn Trail between Maple Ave and School St than are using Maple Ave and School St. If you assume that 60 people are on the Auburn Trail each day, that would mean nearly 22,000 people pass the counter on an annual basis.

That might be walkers, dog walkers, bike riders, runners or in the winter cross country skiers. We will continue to monitor the Auburn Trail at different locations.

We may purchase additional counters to monitor other trails such as the Lehigh Valley Trail in Fishers. This data will be useful when applying for future grants.

YouTube Videos

The Victor Hiking Trails YouTube video library continues to grow. There are currently 70 videos covering all of the Victor trails and parks, some nearby trails and parks, how-to care for and use of trail maintenance equipment, recent trail improvements and hiking equipment. If you have suggestions for additional videos or ideas on how to improve the videos, send them to Chair@VictorHikingTrails.com. Please subscribe to the channel and post your comments on the videos. You can easily find our videos on the home page of our website. Look for the icon shown here.



Facebook and Instagram

VHT is also active on the top social media platforms to communicate everything about Victor Trails. They are also easy to find when you are on the VHT website. Look to the far left of the screen for these icons. Feel free to post your photos of the parks and trails in Victor.



Did you purchase a VHT neck gaiter yet?

VHT is selling custom neck gaiters to raise money for a new mower. These versatile pieces of clothing can be worn around your neck to keep you warm in the winter or as a head band on your forehead in the summer to keep the sweat out of your eyes. They are \$7 each or 2 for \$10.

They also make nice stocking stuffers for that outdoors person who has everything.

If you would like to make a purchase, please send an email chair@VictorHikingTrails.org or leave a message at 585-752-8313. Happy Holidays!



to



Special Partnerships

VHT has partnered with the DECA group at Victor High School on some trail projects. The students are interested in learning about business and want to work with Victor organizations by doing community projects.

The timing was perfect for VHT as we were working on clearing the trails of leaves before the winter snow season. One area that has lots of trails in the woods and therefore lots of leaves on the trails is Dryer Road Park.

The trails were designed for mountain biking, but also used for hiking, dog walking and running. Getting the leaves off the trails makes them safer and also less muddy. Come spring time they will dry out faster and will be better for all trail users.

On Friday, November 10th (school holiday), ten students arrived with rakes in hand, ready to clear the trails. They spent about two hours working on several of the trails. They did a great job and I know the trail users all appreciated the safer trails. We hope to work with this group again in the spring on more trail projects.



Photo by Dave Wright

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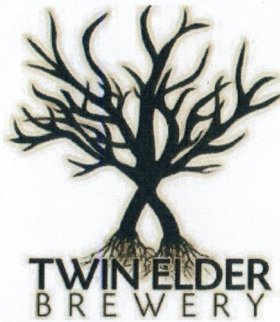
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All VHT newsletters are now available on our website.
View it and download it in full color.

Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check or donation promptly so we can continue to create new and improved shared-use trails.

Making Connections in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Join us on Facebook!

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VHT Map Link

Yes, I want to join / renew *membership in VHT!*

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