



# VHT Pathfinder



Victor Hiking Trails  
Winter 2021

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## 30th Anniversary of Victor Hiking Trails

Throughout 2022, Victor Hiking Trails will be celebrating 30 years of trail building in Victor. From our humble beginnings in the fall of 1991 to our present day, we have strived to create and maintain a system of shared-use trails for all types of users. We now want to recognize the many volunteers who had the vision 30 years ago and stepped up to turn that vision into a reality.

Saturday, June 4th, is National Trails Day. VHT is planning to make this a very special day in Victor with guided hikes, bike rides, trail races, food trucks, entertainment, special awards and recognitions. It will be held in Victor and everyone is invited to be a part of this epic day. If you have a business that would like to sponsor a part of this event, please contact one of our board members for more information.

VHT plans to have many additional guided hikes during the year to celebrate our trails. In addition to our regular monthly hikes, we have monthly educational walks planned. These have been very popular and usually fill up quickly. We are also partnering with the Victor Farmington Library to offer Wednesday morning walks in the Victor Village as well as in the town parks. We also partner with the Victor School District PTSA, focusing on families and young children, to offer easy, local hikes.

The events calendar is on the VHT website. Meetup is used to communicate the events and coordinate the hikes, trail maintenance and special events. You are encouraged to join and there is no cost.



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**VHT Pathfinder**

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 submissions of letters,  
 editorial items and  
 advertising pertaining to  
 trails, Victor and the  
 environment.  
 Ask about our rates.  
 To submit articles for the  
*VHT Pathfinder*, please  
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www.victorhikingtrails.org  
 Also on Facebook,  
 Instagram  
 and Meetup  
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**VHT MONTHLY HIKES****2022 Hikes**

Jan 1, 10 AM– First hike of the year. Auburn Trail, Fishers Fire Station.  
 Jan 8, 9 AM– Helen's Way, 797 Rainbow Run.  
 Jan 30, 2 PM– Woodworking Shop Tour  
 Feb 5, 10 AM to 12 PM– Victor Parks & Rec Winterfest  
 Feb 12, 9 AM– Abe Lincoln Park, Penfield.  
 Feb 27, 2 PM– Animal Tracks, Cumming Nature Center  
 Mar 12, 9 AM– Apple Farm. Meet at the store.  
 Mar 27, 2 PM– Valentown Museum  
 Apr 9, 9 AM– Rob's Trail  
 Apr 24, 2 PM– Wildflowers  
 May 14, 9 AM– Letchworth Park  
 May 22, 2 PM– Migrating Bird Watching  
 Jun 4, 8:30 AM– National Trails Day  
 Jun 26, 2 PM– Railroad Bridges in Victor  
 Jun 11, 9 AM– Bike Ride on the Greenway Trail  
 Jul 31– Geology in Mendon Ponds Park

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>, you will get notifications of hikes and other events and 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 2021. 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. Based on the success of past years we will again be adding an educational element to some of the hikes.

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

Sept 25, 9 AM– Bike Your Park Day.

On a beautiful morning the group drove to Canandaigua, NY to start the ride heading south on the Ontario Pathways Trail.

The nine riders went about 15 miles total and saw many Winnie the Pooh signs made to make the trek more enjoyable. After the ride they stopped at the Bee Hive Pub for refreshments.



*Photo by Alicia A.*

Sept 26, 2 PM– Historical Victor Hike.

Babette Huber, Town of Victor Historian, led a group of 20 history buffs on an afternoon stroll from the Victor Town Hall to Maple Avenue to point out some of the interesting homes and their previous owners.



*Photo by Jeff Miller*

Oct 9, 9 AM– Boughton Park.

15 hikers did a loop hike around the ponds at the park and covered about 4 miles on a cloudy morning. Refreshments at The Apple Farm were offered to all the hikers.



*Photo by Dave Wright*

*Continued on page 4*

## Past Hikes continued

Oct 31, 2 PM– Halloween Special.

20 brave souls came to the Avon Cemetery to hear the history of Avon as told by 3 historians. The walk also included the Avon Circle where routes 5 & 20 pass through the village to see several historical markers. After the tour several members went to the historical American Hotel in Lima.

*Photo by Dave Wright*



Nov 13, 9 AM– Ontario County Park.

The weather was not conducive for a pleasant hike, but 16 adventurers braved the elements and made the best of a bad situation. About 4.5 miles were covered on the single track trails at the park. After the hike, half went to Brats and Brews to dry out, warm up and enjoy some food and beverages.



*Photos by Alicia A.*



Dec 11, 9 AM– Seneca Park along the Genesee River.

There were 22 hikers for this mostly flat hike along the Genesee River. It was windy and cool, but the woods gave everyone some protection. The out and back hike was 5 miles total.



*Photo by Alicia A.*

### Past Hikes continued

November 21, 2 PM– Historic Canandaigua.

This was another cold, rainy afternoon, but 20 people who wanted to learn about the history of downtown Canandaigua came to hear Ontario County Historian Preston Pierce tell a very interesting story about women’s suffrage, prohibition and some of the early settlers and residents.



*Photo by Jeff Miller*



*Photo by Dave Wright*

December 18, 2 PM– Lamberton Conservatory at Highland Park

It was a good afternoon to be inside, especially inside a conservatory. And the one at Highland Park is one of the best in the area. 25 folks enjoyed the tour led by Noel Nagle. She has worked at the Lamberton for the past 40 years and of course is very knowledgeable. After the tour 20 went on a hike around the reservoir. Then 12 went to the Elmwood Inn for dinner, a perfect way to end the day.



*Photos by Jeff Miller*

## Traction Devices for Winter Hiking

Ice traction devices do more than just help you stay upright while shoveling snow or navigating the grocery store parking lot. Sure-footed traction in snow and ice allows you to carry your outdoor life into the shoulder seasons and beyond. Ice cleats help you get across steep snowfields and run in all kinds of inclement conditions. Winter traction for boots turns icy hikes into serene walks — instead of sketchy dances with slick patches.

One of the more popular brands in our area is the Kahtoola MICROspikes. They are great for the types of hikes that are typically done in our area. They come in several sizes, and are made of a stretchy elastomer that fits over your winter hiking boots. Check the internet for stores in our area that sell them.



## Donation Boxes

If you have hiked on the Auburn or Lehigh Trails lately, you may have noticed these new green metal posts with a box at the top. No, they are not birdhouses. They are donation boxes. Several months ago, VHT member Ron Lovell, an excellent welder, designed and built three of these boxes from material he had leftover from projects he had done over the years. After building the first one and showing the VHT board members, he built two more, had them powder-coated and delivered them to Chauncy Young.

Ron and others dug three holes, “planted” the posts in concrete, and put a lock on each one. There are two residing on the Auburn Trail; one is by the kiosk at Maple Avenue; the second one is at the kiosk by Main Street Fishers. The third one is on the Lehigh Trail by the kiosk at Old Dutch Road.

Now users of the trails can make a small donation to VHT to help us keep the trails in tiptop condition.



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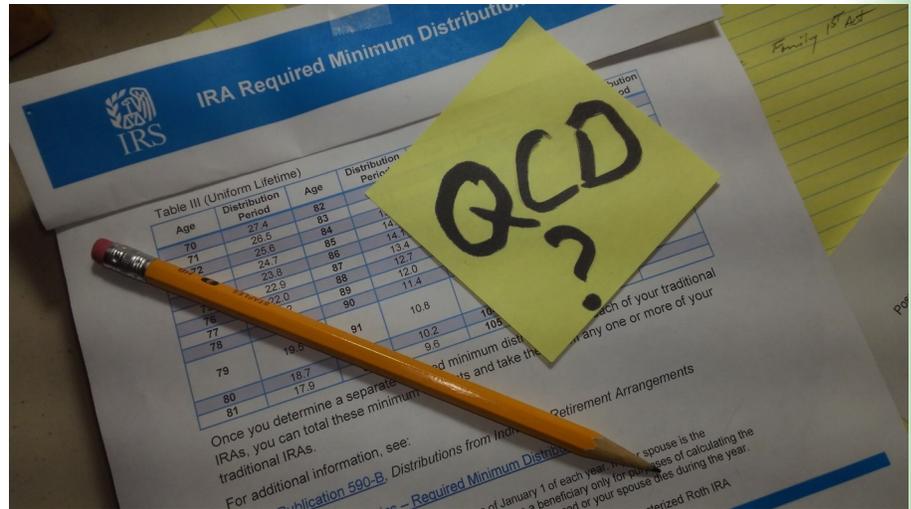
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## Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are like me, over 70 ½ and you have Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), you are most likely subject to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules. For several years taxpayers have been able to make distributions directly from their IRAs to charities and these payments qualify as part of or to all of their RMD for the year. There are some rules and restrictions such as the maximum QCD amount for an individual in any one year is \$100,000 and the QCD cannot be made from qualified plans such as 401-Ks without first rolling the money to an IRA.

A big benefit of going the QCD route is you get to use the charitable donation against your taxes, whereas most taxpayers do not get to do so if paid with after tax dollars because of today's higher standard deductions. With a QCD, the QCD portion of the RMD is not added to your Gross Adjusted Income (AGI) and subsequently lowers taxable income. AGI is used to calculate taxability of Social Security payments received during the year and the amount of the monthly Medicare payments withdrawn from the monthly Social Security payments in subsequent years. Bottom line is if you make charitable deductions and you are required to make distributions from IRAs, QCDs will likely allow you to keep more money in your pocket.



It may be too late to make a QCD for 2021 as it must be made by December 31<sup>st</sup>. However, check with your financial planner and/or tax preparer to see if making Qualified Charitable Distributions makes sense for your situation. Then check with your IRA custodian as to whether there is a minimum amount for each distribution or other rules. The custodian will ask you whether you want the check sent directly to the charity or to you in the charities name so you can deliver the check yourself by hand or through the mail.

Make your plans **now** before you take your 2022 RMDs as once you have taken your Required Minimum Distribution for the year a QCD may not make sense.

Chauncy Young, CFP



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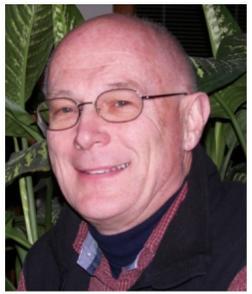


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## 30 YEARS AND GROWING

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 multi-use trails.

*Filling the gaps in Victor*

Check out our website at  
[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)

Join us on Facebook!

And Meetup!

Post your photos on Instagram



VHT Map Link

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

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 Corporate membership at \$100 per year allows all employees to be members.

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

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