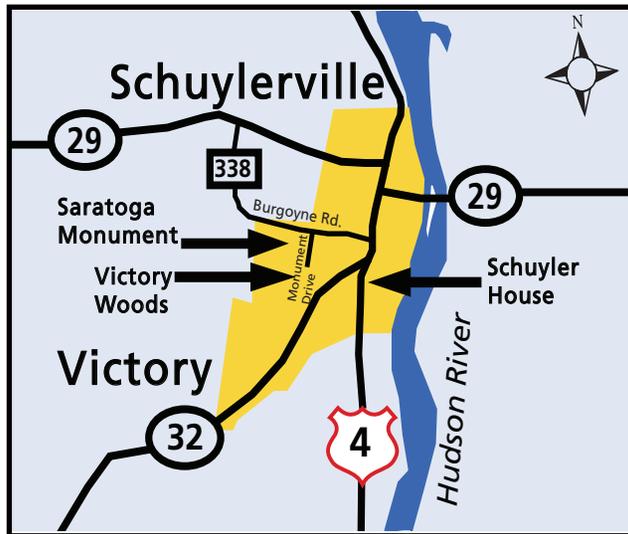




For its creative design embodying universal accessibility and resource protection, Victory Woods Trail received the National Park Service 2010 Architectural Design Project Achievement Award.

Administration

Victory Woods is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. It is one of four sites that comprise Saratoga National Historical Park.



Location

Located in the Village of Victory, Victory Woods is accessible from Saratoga Monument, which is located on Burgoyne Road (County Route 338). Handicapped parking for Victory Woods is located at the end of Monument Drive.

Victory Woods is approximately 8 miles north of the battlefield unit of Saratoga National Historical Park. It is open daily, sunrise to sunset (trails are not maintained in winter).

For more information

Saratoga National Historical Park
 648 Route 32
 Stillwater, NY 12170
 518-670-2985
SARA_info@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/sara
 Facebook & Twitter: @SaratogaNHP

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Saratoga National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Victory Woods



All things in this camp became sadder and sadder for us. Our poor sick and wounded crept around ... to look for safe places ... for compassionate surgeons who could dress their wounds or provide them with medicines...Loyal [Americans] walked around sadly bemoaning either the fate of their families...or their own if they should fall into the hands of their enemies. The horses began to die for lack of forage or they became living skeletons.

—Brigadier Johann Friedrich Specht
13 October 1777

History

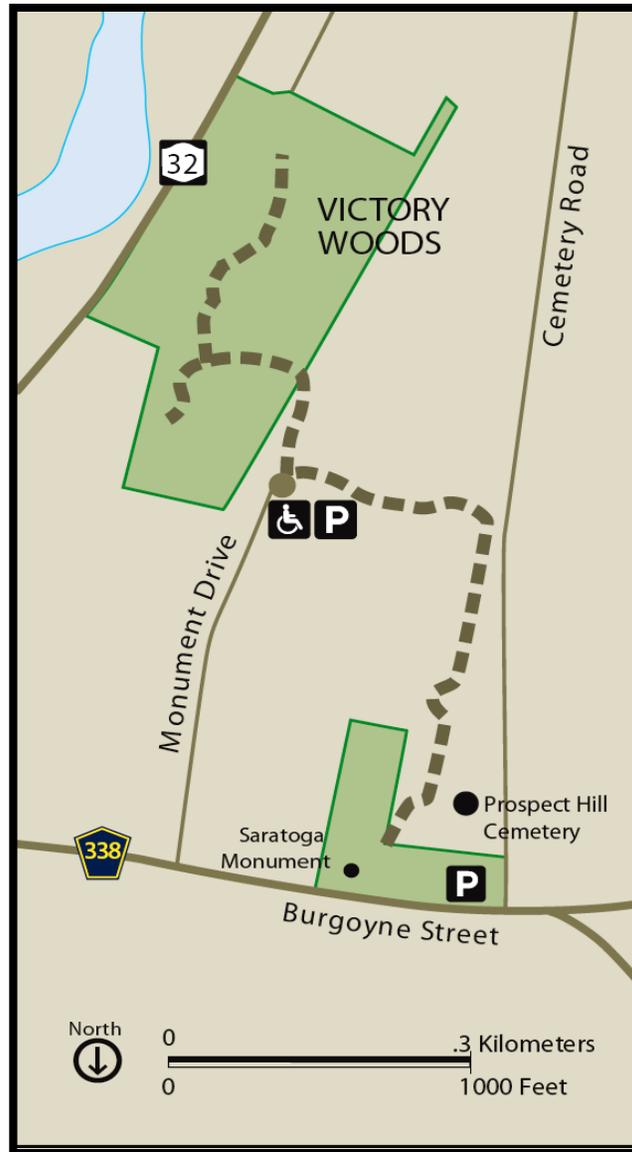
In 1777, the British planned to crush American resistance in the Revolutionary War by marching an army south from Canada to Albany, NY, sweeping all opposition in their path. They almost succeeded, but were stopped in the Battles of Saratoga just 8 miles south of Victory Woods. Beaten in battle, the British hoped to escape back to Canada with the remnants of their army.

Retreating north to this area (present-day villages of Victory and Schuylerville), they halted and built defenses for protection against the pursuing American army. Surrounded, starved, exhausted, and outnumbered 3 to 1, the British surrendered on 17 October 1777.

Here, in Victory Woods is where the largest part of that army made its last stand. For one week British and loyalist American men, women, and children suffered helplessly in the filth of cold mud, excrement, and dead animals. They had little to eat and no hope of getting home.

The American victory at Saratoga was not an ordinary one—it completely changed the nature of the Revolutionary War in favor of the United States, which finally won its fight for independence in 1783.

It was in Victory Woods that British misery and depression turned into American victory and success.



Victory Woods is open sunrise to sunset;
trails will not be maintained during winter.

There are no restrooms on the trail.

Today

Although the retreating British army was here for only one week, these grounds should have been a treasure-trove of Revolutionary War artifacts. Yet, archaeologists working in 2005 found nothing left behind from the 2,500 British and loyalist Americans who were stationed here.

Sadly over the years Victory Woods has been subjected to illegal “relic hunting.” This collecting of artifacts has robbed us all of information which contributes to our American Heritage. The scientific archeological investigation here was severely compromised as a result of this looting activity.

To explore Victory Woods, park at Saratoga Monument (handicapped parking available at the end of Monument Drive). Signs will direct you to the nearby Victory Woods trailhead.

White dots mark the trail as it extends south through Prospect Hill Cemetery, a private cemetery founded in the mid 1800's.

As the trail exits the cemetery, it leads downhill to the Victory Woods boardwalk. An additional trail extends south from the boardwalk which provides additional information about the perilous final days suffered by British forces in Victory Woods.