Summit Trails Inset

**DISTANCES**
- Upper parking lot to Summit via Slab: 0.55 mi
- Upper parking lot to West Peak: 0.50 mi
- West Peak to Summit: 0.40 mi

**TRAIL BLAZING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brownsville</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windsor</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Futures</td>
<td>Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weathersfield</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper parking lot to tower</td>
<td>Yellow diamonds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- hiking trail (foot traffic only)
- best route from parking area to tower
- stream
- vista
- highway
- Mount Ascutney Parkway (toll)
- mountain peak
- observation tower
- park office
- campground
- parking
- restrooms
- picnic shelter
- hang glider launch

For informational purposes only, not survey accurate.
SUMMIT TRAILS
From the upper parking lot on the Mt. Ascutney Parkway, visitors can hike to the summit of Mt. Ascutney via the Strat (64 miles) or Slab (55 miles) Trails. These trails connect with the Windsor, Weatherfield and Brownsville Trails. Excellent views are enjoyed from Brownsville Rock, Castle Rock, West Peak and the observation tower.

The slab trail is recommended for hikers seeking the least strenuous route. It is marked with yellow diamond blazes. Although this is the easiest route to the top, sturdy shoes and water are still necessary, as hikers will gain nearly 350 feet in elevation on this short trail. If you follow this route to the summit, return the same way.

Observation Tower – The 24.5 foot tower provides hikers with a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. It is located near the summit on the Windsor and Weatherfield trails just north of the intersection with the Weatherfield Trail. This tower was constructed from sections of the original Mt. Ascutney fire tower which was used for fire surveillance until 1952.

BASE TO SUMMIT HIKING TRAILS
Four trails start at the base of Mt. Ascutney and ascend to its summit. Three of these trails are maintained under a cooperative agreement with the Ascutney Trails Association.

FUTURES TRAIL – 4.6 miles
The Futures Trail starts alongside campsites #22 in the Mt. Ascutney State Park campground (day use fee required). Total distance to the summit is 4.6 miles (at 4.1 miles the Futures Trail connects to the Windsor Trail). Highlights of this trail include Bare Rock Vista (1.0 mile) and the Steam Donkey (3.5 miles) – a steam powered machine used for cable logging in the early 1900s. Several sections of this trail can also be accessed by parking areas located along the Mt. Ascutney Parkway. Parking is available during the park operating season.

WEATHERSFIELD TRAIL – 2.9 miles
The trailhead parking (maintained all year) is located off Route 44A in the town of Brownsville. The trail is 2.9 miles south on Route 44A and Route 5 to intersection with Route 131. Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for maintenance required each year to keep them safe and enjoyable. If you are hiking during mud season, walk through the mud, not around it. If a trail is so muddy that you need to walk on the vegetation beside it, turn back, and seek an alternative area to hike. Remember that all parts of the trail are closed to motorized vehicle traffic. For More Information, Please Contact:
Mt Ascutney State Park
1826 Back Mtn Rd
Windsor, VT 05089
(802)674-2060 (May-Oct)
www.vtstateparks.com
This document is available upon request in large print, Braille, and audio format. Printed on recycled paper.
02/2011 RW/ERP/RRA

Total distance from trail head to summit is 3.2 miles. Trail highlights include the Norcross Quarry (1.1 miles) – excellent views and a look at an early 1900s granite quarry. Quarry Top Lookout (1.2 miles), Knee Lookout (2.0 miles), North Peak Lookout (2.4 miles) and Brownsville Rock (3.0 miles).

WINDSOR TRAIL – 2.7 miles
The trailhead parking (maintained all year) is located off Route 44A in the town of Windsor, 1.6 miles north of the park entrance on the left.

Total distance from trail head to summit is 2.7 miles. Trail highlights include Gerry’s Falls (0.8 mile), Castle Rock (2.4 miles) and Brownsville Rock (2.5 miles).

MT. ASCUTNEY PARKWAY
This 3.7-mile paved toll road winds its way up from the park entrance on Route 44A to the parking lot in the saddle between the south peak and the summit. The road has an elevation gain of nearly 2,300 feet. The CCC built the parkway over the course of six years; it incorporates many scenic viewpoints and pullouts. Three picnic areas are located along the road, one with a picnic stone shelter and restrooms.

Driving up the Parkway – The posted speed limit is 15 MPH. Take all corners well on your own side of the road. If you car overheats, pull off in a turn out area and run the car at ¼ throttle to cool the engine.

Driving down the Parkway – Drive all the way down in low gear; this will cause the engine to act as a brake and help slow your car’s descent. Do not ride your brakes. Instead apply a pumping action of the foot pedal. This allows the brakes to cool. If the brakes overheat, stop at the next turnout and allow the brakes to cool for 15 to 20 minutes. Cars going down the road should give the right of way to cars going up.

HANG GLIDING
Mt. Ascutney is considered one of the premier hang gliding sites in New England. Most hang gliding activities occur at the West Peak launch site located on the West Windsor Town Forest or at the South Peak launch site located within Mt. Ascutney State Park. Both areas are reached by trails originating from the upper parking lot on the Mt. Ascutney Parkway. Hang gliding within the park is managed by rules and regulations adopted by the Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Hang Gliding Association.

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• Overnight camping and campfires are allowed only at designated sites in the developed campground. Inquire at the park office for more information.
• Stay on marked hiking trails. Hiking off trails causes erosion and destroys vegetation.
• Limit hiking during mud season and especially rainy periods. This will allow the trails to dry out, and reduce the amount of maintenance required each year to keep them safe and enjoyable. If you are hiking during mud season, walk through the mud, not around it. If a trail is so muddy that you need to walk on the vegetation beside it, turn back, and seek an alternative area to hike.
• Keep the trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
• Keep pets on a leash at all times. There are many porcupines on the mountain.
• Trails are for foot travel only. ATVs and mountain bikes are not permitted in the park or on the trail system.
• Leave all wildflowers and plants in their natural environment for others to enjoy.
• Keep away from all transmitter towers and buildings located on the South Peak and north summit of Mt. Ascutney.

MT. ASCUTNEY STATE PARK GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS
Welcome to Mt. Ascutney, from Knapp Pond, circa 1860
courtesy Vermont Historical Society