

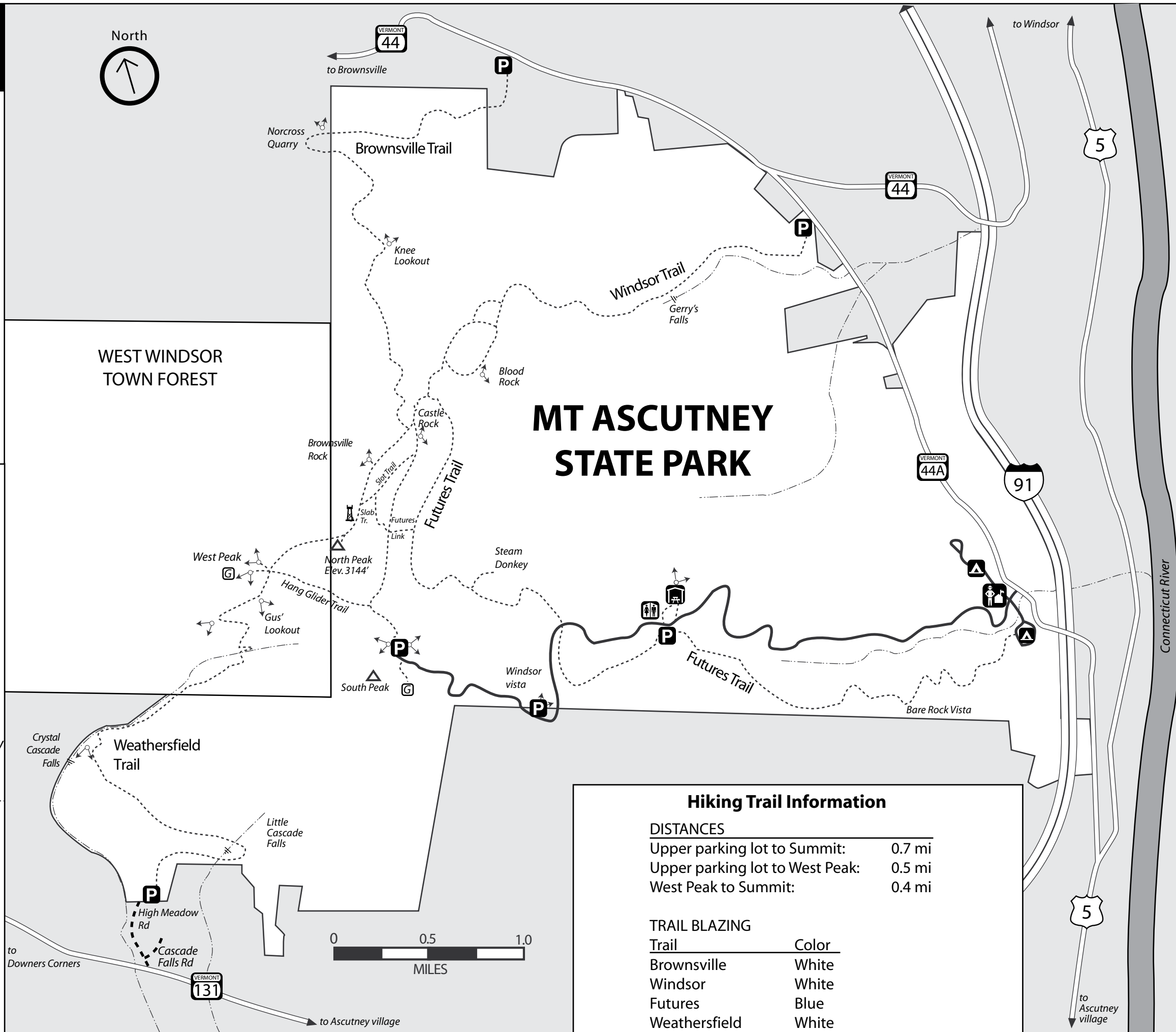
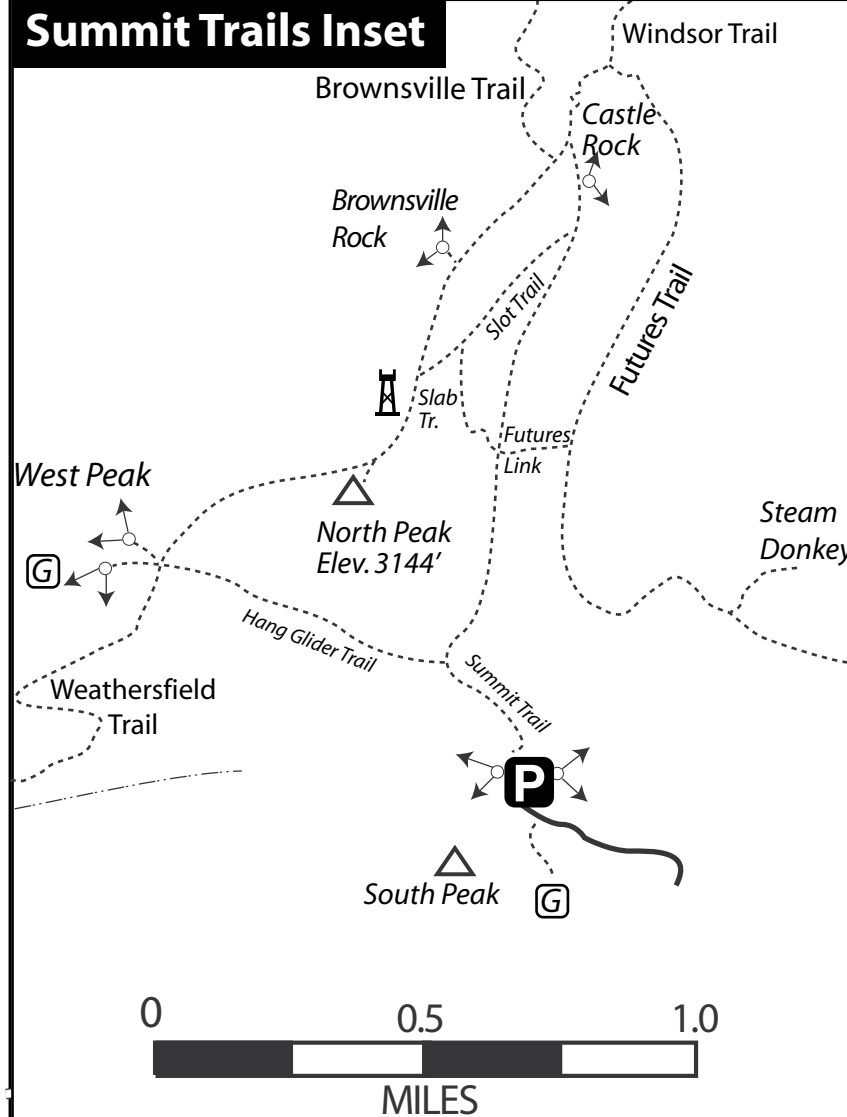
MT ASCUTNEY STATE PARK RECREATIONAL GUIDE

LEGEND

-  hiking trail (foot traffic only)
-  stream
-  vista
-  state highway
-  park auto toll road
-  mountain peak
-  park office
-  campground
-  parking
-  restrooms
-  picnic shelter
-  hang glider launch



Summit Trails Inset



Hiking Trail Information	
DISTANCES	
Upper parking lot to Summit:	0.7 mi
Upper parking lot to West Peak:	0.5 mi
West Peak to Summit:	0.4 mi
TRAIL BLAZING	
Trail	Color
Brownsville	White
Windsor	White
Futures	Blue
Weathersfield	White



Trails just north of the intersection with the *Weathersfield Trail*. This tower was constructed from sections of the original Mt. Ascutney fire tower which was used for fire surveillance until 1952.

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 Mount 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.

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 campsite #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** – a steam powered machine used for cable logging in the early 1900s (located at 3.5 miles). Several sections of this trail can also be accessed by parking areas located along the Mt Ascutney Parkway.

WEATHERSFIELD TRAIL – 2.9 miles

The trail head parking area is located off Route 131 in the town of Weathersfield. From the Mt. Ascutney State Park office, go 2.3 miles south on Route 44A and Route 5 to intersection with Route 131. Turn west on Route 131 and travel 3.5 miles to intersection with **Cascade Falls Road**, turn north on **Cascade Falls Road** and follow signs to trail head.

Total distance from trail head to summit is 2.9 miles. Highlights of this trail include **Little Cascade Falls** (0.4 mile), **Crystal Cascade Falls** – a spectacular 84 foot high waterfall (1.1 miles), **Gus’ Lookout** (2.3 miles), and **West Peak Vista** (2.5 miles).

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 *Brownsville* and the **observation tower**.

From the upper parking lot on the Mountain Road, visitors can hike 0.7 mile to the summit of Mt. Ascutney via the *Stor* or *Slab* Trails. These trails connect with the *Windsor*, *Weathersfield*, and *Brownsville* Trails. Excellent views are enjoyed from **Brownsville Rock**, **Castle Rock**, **West Peak**, and the **observation tower**.

SUMMIT TRAILS

Cars going up. Cars going down the road should give the right of way to turnout and allow the brakes to cool for 15 to 20 minutes. If the brakes overheat, stop at the next unnecessary, a pumping action of the foot pedal allows the and help slow your car’s descent. Do not ride your brakes in low gear; this will cause the engine to act as a brake gear; this places less load on your engine and allows it to run cooler. 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.

BROWNSVILLE TRAIL – 3.2 miles

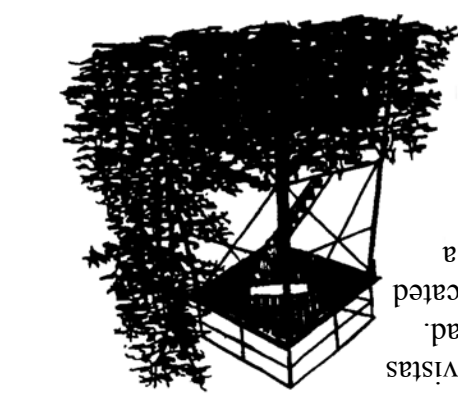
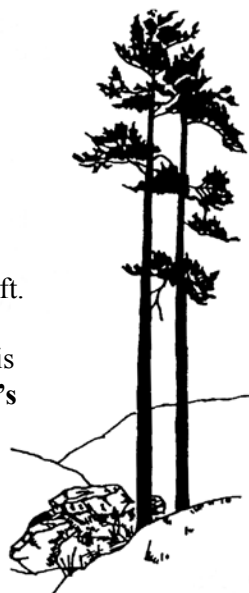
The trail head parking area is located off Route 44 in Windsor. From the Mt. Ascutney State Park office, go 1.8 miles north on Route 44A to junction with Route 44. Turn west on Route 44 and travel 1.0 mile to trail head on the left.

Total distance from trail head to summit is 3.2 miles. Trail highlights include the **Norcross Quarry** – excellent views and a look at an early 1900s granite quarry (1.1 miles), **Quarry Top Lookout** (1.2 miles), **Knee Lookout** (2.0 miles), **North Peak Lookout** 92.4 miles), and **Brownsville Rock** (3.0 miles).

WINDSOR TRAIL – 2.7 miles

The trail head parking lot 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), **Blood Rock Vista** (1.7 miles), **Castle Rock** (2.4 miles), and **Brownsville Rock** (2.5 miles).



This 3.7 mile paved auto toll road winds its way up from the park entrance on Route 44A from 550 feet elevation to the parking lot in the saddle between the south peak and the summit to 2800 feet elevation. The CCC built the parkway over the course of six years; the route was carefully laid out to incorporate many scenic vistas.

MOUNT ASCUTNEY PARKWAY

Hampshire than that of the surrounding Green Mountains of Vermont. Park development was carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company No. 129 which was stationed at the park 1933-1938. The CCC constructed the northern campground, auto road, picnic areas, shelter, fire tower, and summit hiking trails.

MT ASCUTNEY STATE PARK GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

- 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.
- Keep the trails free of litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- Keep pets on a leash at all times.
- 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.
- For your safety, keep away from all transmitter towers and buildings located on the South Peak and north summit of Mt. Ascutney.

This document is available upon request in large print, Braille, and audio cassette. VT TDD Relay (800)253-0191

Printed on recycled paper.

Driving up the Parkway – Drive all the way up in low

restrooms.

Three picnic areas are located along the road, one with a stone picnic shelter and and pulloffs along the road.



Mt. Ascutney dominates the landscape of southeastern Vermont and southwestern New Hampshire, rising sharply from the surrounding gentle hills. The mountain has a complex and unique geological history. The mountain formed over 100 million years ago when magma was forced up several times into surrounding metamorphic rocks. The magma intrusion complex cooled slowly into an igneous granitic rock. Over time, the surrounding metamorphic phyllites, schists, limestones and gneisses were worn down by weather and ice ages but the granitic dome persisted. The Mt. Ascutney we know today is a *monadnock*; it is not related geologically to surrounding hills, but rather stands alone and shares a geologic history more closely with the White Mountains of New

WELCOME

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VERMONT AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION