SUMMIT TRAILS
From the upper parking lot on the Mt. Ascutney Parkway, visitors can hike to the summit of Mt. Ascutney via the Slot (0.64 miles) or Slab (0.55 miles). 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 Brownsville 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 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 (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 trail head 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 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 trail head 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 miles), Castle Rock (2.4 miles) and Brownsville Rock (2.5 miles).

MT. ASCUTCNEY 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 across the over six years; it incorporates many scenic views and pullouts. Three picnic areas are located along the road, one with a stone picnic 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 come across a vehicle, pull off in a turn out area and run the car at ¼ throttle to cool the engine.

Driving down the parkway – Drive the car 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 off for 15 to 20 minutes. Cars going down the road should give the right of way to cars going up the road.

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.

Mt. Ascutney State Park offers a wide variety of recreational activities for all levels of outdoor enthusiasts. The park includes a campground, picnic areas, scenic auto toll road, observation tower, hang glider launch sites, historic sites and an extensive hiking trail system. User fees are charged for activities in the park. The peak stands at an elevation of 3,144 feet above sea level and is surrounded by more than 3,000 acres of state park land.

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 granite rock. Over time, the surrounding metamorphic rock was worn down by weather and ice ages but the granite dome persisted. That is why 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 Hampshire than that of the surrounding Green Mountains of Vermont.

Park development was carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps, a Depression-era public works program aimed at putting young men to work. CCC Company No. 129, which was stationed at the park 1933-1938, constructed the northern campground, auto road, picnic areas, shelter, fire tower and summit hiking trails.

MT. ASCUTCNEY 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.
- 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.
- Keep your trash. If you feel lost, stop immediately and look around. All trails on Mt. Ascutney State Park are marked with blue, or white blaze marks (paint markings on trees alongside the trail). The Bicentennial Trail on the West Windsor Town Forest (NOT part of the park trail system) is marked with yellow painted blazes. The best route from the parking lot to the summit is blazed with yellow plastic diamonds. At each blaze mark, you should be able to see at least one blaze mark ahead and one blaze mark behind you. If you cannot see any blaze marks, turn around and retrace your steps.
- 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.

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SAFE HIKING TIPS
- Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Weather on the summit can be very different than weather at the trail heads; there is an average elevation gain of 2,500 feet from base to summit.
- Weather can change quickly on the mountain so be prepared for adverse conditions. Bring an extra layer and a waterproof jacket.
- Carry a cell phone when possible. Set your ringer to “vibrate” to respect others. If you feel lost or need other assistance, contact the park office at (802) 674-2060 (May-Oct). Call 911 in the event of an emergency.
- Portable water and bathroom facilities are not available on the trail system. Plan accordingly. Bring extra water with you.
- If you feel lost, stop immediately and look around. All trails on Mt. Ascutney State Park are marked with blue, or white blaze marks (paint markings on trees alongside the trail). The Bicentennial Trail on the West Windsor Town Forest (NOT part of the park trail system) is marked with yellow painted blazes. The best route from the parking lot to the summit is blazed with yellow plastic diamonds. At each blaze mark, you should be able to see at least one blaze mark ahead and one blaze mark behind you. If you cannot see any blaze marks, turn around and retrace your steps.
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