



Mount Ascutney



Around Mt. Ascutney



Miles: 23.6
Surface Type: Paved
Elevation Gain: 1,328 ft
Difficulty: Moderate

Riding around Mt. Ascutney is one of the classic road rides in the area. This paved road ride is best suited for those comfortable with riding on two lane country roads with low to moderate traffic volumes. Like all routes in the area, the terrain is generally gently rolling and passes by small pastoral farms. This loop can be easily modified by combining it with the “Mt. Ascutney Parkway Climb” or a series of “Gravel Options” highlighted on the map. The gravel segments are low volume, graded town roads which can be traveled by most bikes (for a more adventurous gravel ride see the “Dirty Way Around Mt. Ascutney” ride, below). A great place to start this ride is Mt Ascutney State Park, in the Town of Windsor, which offers day use parking, overnight camping and access to other activities like hiking and trail running for a fee.

Gravel Options



(follow orange dashed line)
Miles: 18.9
Surface Type: Paved/Gravel
Elevation Gain: 1,230 ft
Difficulty: Moderate

Dirty Way Around Mt. Ascutney



Miles: 28.2
Surface Type: Mostly Gravel
Elevation Gain: 2,941ft
Difficulty: Challenging

For those looking for more adventure, this mixed surface version of the classic Mt. Ascutney Loop adds another 10 miles and 1500 feet of climbing over rougher terrain. The gravel sectors explore the drainages of a few small creeks and brooks through undulating terrain. While not overly technical, this route includes some rougher “Class IV” forest roads, so a bike with tires in the 35mm and larger range is recommended, is being equipped with basic bike repair tools the “Dirty Way Around Mt. Ascutney” ride, below). A great place to start this ride is Mt Ascutney State Park, in the Town of Windsor, which offers day use parking, overnight camping and access to other activities like hiking and trail running for a fee.

Mt. Ascutney Parkway Climb



Miles: 7.4
Surface Type: Paved
Elevation Gain: 2,270 ft
Difficulty: Challenging

The iconic Mt. Ascutney is the second highest peak in Windsor County, and your legs will feel it as you ascend 2300 feet in 3.7 miles on the Mt. Ascutney Parkway. With an average grade of 11% and a maximum grade of 16%, this climbing route will test your mettle and your low gears. The parkway is part of Mount Ascutney State Park, which charges a daily per person entry fee during the operating season for all amenities located inside of the main gate, including using the road. There are several overlooks to take a break or just take in the scenery. Descend responsibly since the route is open to automobile traffic and the grades are steep. A good local’s tip is to ride this route before the park officially opens at 10am, so you can “enjoy” the climb car free.

Disclaimer

Notice to Bicyclists: This map and accompanying information is intended solely to assist bicyclists in their selection of facilities to ride on throughout Windsor County. In providing this information, Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC) does not designate these facilities as formal bikeways. SWCRPC also does not assume liability for bicyclists who choose to travel upon any of the facilities shown on this map, nor does SWCRPC guarantee the stability, condition or fitness of any of the listed facilities for bicycling. Many of the facilities identified on this map cross and/or run on public roads that are exposed to daily wear and tear and degradation due to weather, motorized traffic and other environmental factors. Facilities may contain pavement imperfections, including ruts, cracks, and bumps. Riders may encounter expansion joints, debris, encroaching vegetation, stormwater inlets, and other natural and man-made features. Riders should also remain alert for areas of visual impairment and other irregularities that may impact rider and motorist ability to see each other or potential road hazards. The chance that one may come into an area of visual impairment or a route irregularity warrants special care on the part of route users. This map includes facilities within multiple jurisdictions. Conditions and design elements may vary between jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the individual rider to remain alert at all times as to the conditions of the facility, pedestrian and other traffic on the facility, and the inherent potential for conflict in any shared-use space. Riders should always ride with care for their own safety as well as the safety of all other users of the facility or right-of-way.

