

Science on the Slopes

Environmental Education & Wellness Program



Earth Science

Hiking Trails at Wachusett Mountain

WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN SUMMER SEIZES OPPORTUNITIES HUNTS
When hiking the mountain, take a selfie in front of all five mountain landmarks. Post them on Instagram, tag @wachusettmtn and be entered to win a \$25 CARD OF WACHUSETT (COW) Gift Card. Drawings to be held monthly.

The Auto Road allows people to drive to the Summit during the Spring, Summer & Fall. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation & Recreation maintain over 17 miles of hiking trails.

Old Growth Forests contain trees that are greater than 50% of the maximum known age for a particular species. Because of harsh growing conditions, these old trees have stunted growth and their size is not indicative of their age.

This high-speed quad chairlift runs at 1000' per minute in the Winter for skiers and runs at a much slower speed for Summer use. Winter capacity is 2,200 people per hour.

Ponds were originally built for erosion control, Wachusett is upstream of Wachusett Lake which is a backup water supply for the City of Fitchburg.

COME SKI OR RIDE WITH US THIS WINTER
There are 26 ski trails providing more than 150 acres of skiing & riding. There are more than 500 lights for night skiing. We have hundreds of snow guns connected to our massive snowmaking system. We are one of the best medium sized ski areas in the country with 3 high speed quads, great grooming, wonderful food and beverage and everything one needs to have a fantastic ski experience!

Points of Interest

A Wachusett Mtn. Summit
The Summit elevation is 2066' above sea level. Henry David Thoreau called Wachusett the "Observatory of Massachusetts." Wachusett means "by the Great Hill" in Algonquin language.

B Harlow Outlook
This 13x20' fieldstone structure, open on 3 sides with a fireplace, is the perfect resting place for hikers with breathtaking views to the east which include the Wachusett Reservoir & Boston skyline.

C Bullock Lodge
Bullock Lodge built by Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936, was designed to provide jobs for young men, & to relieve families who had difficulty finding jobs during the Great Depression. Staff was provided with shelter, clothing & food, paid \$550 a month (in today's dollars). The CCC was started by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933. During the Ski Season, the folks from Red Apple Farm sell delicious cider donuts, warm apple cider and many other wonderful treats.

D Needham Pool
This man made pool is accessed via Balance Rock Road, enjoy the cascading water and keep an eye out for the many frogs who call it home.

E Balance Rock
These two large boulders were stacked one on top of the other by moving glaciers thousands of years ago and are evidence of the glacial activity which helped shape the mountain. Features like this are called glacial erratics which occur when rocks are transported by a glacier often hundreds of miles, then get left behind after it melts.

Map by: northpoledesign.com

WACHUSETT.MOUNTAIN.COM

Balance Rock Trail - 0.4 mi (20min) 180 ft. elevation change.
Connects the Ski Area Lodge parking lot to Balance Rock Rd.

Old Indian Trail - 1.2 mi to summit (1 hr 30 min) 750 ft elevation change.
Access trailhead at Balance Rock Road across from Balance Rock Trail;
intersects the Semuhenna and West Side Trails

Wachusett Redline Hike



Hike Description: The Wachusett Redline hike is a 17.6 mile hike that completes all trails on the Mountain (not including the roads). The route presented involves over 4,400 vertical feet of hiking, and is normally done in between 7.5 and 10 hours. This hike can be done in a single day or over multiple days and without any time limits. Both one-day and four-day versions of the hike are shown on the Town of Princeton's website linked here:

[Wachusett Mountain Red Line patch](#)

Scenic Vistas and the Midstate Trail



Hike Description: With its 2,006-foot elevation, Wachusett Mountain is the tallest mountain in Massachusetts between the Connecticut River and the Atlantic Ocean. The nearly 360-degree view from the summit offers a splendid look at southern New England. Wachusett Mountain is situated along the Midstate Trail, a 92-mile trail that runs from New Hampshire to Rhode Island. The trail reaches its highest point in Massachusetts at Wachusett Mountain.

Follow the
Yellow
Triangles



More Trail Info to Come...