



For More Information Contact:

Kinzua Bridge State Park
 296 Viaduct Road
 Kane, PA 16735
 814-778-5467
 email: kinzuabridgesp@pa.gov
 GPS DD: Lat: 41.75953 Long. -78.58702
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Information and Reservations

Make online reservations at:
www.visitPAparks.com or call toll-free
 888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757), 7:00 AM to
 5:00 PM, Monday to Saturday, for state park
 information and reservations.

www.visitPAparks.com visitPAparks

Kinzua Bridge State Park

The 339-acre Kinzua Bridge State Park offers visitors a chance to walk the Kinzua Bridge skywalk. Located in McKean County, this park is the home of the newly reinvented Kinzua Viaduct. The viaduct, once known as the longest and tallest railroad structure at 2,053 feet long and 301 feet high, was partially destroyed by a tornado in 2003.

In 2011, the engineering masterpiece was reinvented as a new pedestrian walkway where visitors can stroll 600 feet out on the remaining support towers, peer miles out into the Kinzua Valley as well as look down into the partial glass platform at the end of the walkway. Picnicking and trail opportunities are available. The new visitor center features great views, exhibits, and information on the surrounding area.

Directions

Kinzua Bridge State Park is four miles north of US 6 at Mt. Jewett on SR 3011.

Use the following coordinates for GPS devices:
 GPS DD: Lat: 41.75953 Long. -78.58702

Recreational Advisory

Due to unsafe conditions in the area of the downed towers, visitors are prohibited from walking near the downed towers and debris field as indicated on the map.

Spend the Day



SCENIC VIEWS: The skywalk gives close-up views of the viaduct and wide views of the Kinzua Creek Valley. The Overlook is excellent for viewing the skywalk and the valley. Both views are great for viewing fall foliage, which peaks the first two weeks of October.

The Picture Taking Platform under the skywalk allows visitors to photograph themselves and the remaining support towers in an interesting “3D” effect similar to what visitors used to have on the other side before the towers fell. A short side trail from the Kinzua Creek Trail leads to the platform.

HIKING: 1.5 miles

General Kane Trail: 1.09 miles, easiest hiking

The trail wanders through hardwood forests of black cherry and maple trees, including areas both ravaged and renewed by nature itself since the 2003 tornado.

The loop trail is named for General Thomas Leiper Kane, the visionary behind Kinzua Bridge. During the Civil War, Kane assembled the famed Bucktail Regiment. He also supported slave rights and, later, the Latter-day Saint movement as it migrated westward.

Kinzua Creek Trail: 0.4 mile (one way), most difficult hiking

The trail begins on the paved walkway to the Overlook. This steep, challenging trail switchbacks to the valley bottom and gives close-up views of the supports for the skywalk and spectacular views of the fallen towers. The trail ends at the far side of the footbridge. Do not enter the debris field. Hikers must retrace their steps back to the trailhead.

Access to the short trail for the Picture Taking Platform is near the Overlook and the Kinzua Creek Trail trailhead.

CAUTION: Hikers on the Kinzua Creek Trail should be in good physical condition, wear sturdy boots, and use caution due to steep trail sections. Entrance into the debris field is strictly prohibited.

Tell us about your hike at: www.explorepatrails.com

PICNICKING: The picnic area has shaded picnic tables. Modern restrooms are in the visitor center. A picnic pavilion that seats 60 people is accessible to people with disabilities. The pavilion may be reserved up to 11 months in advance for a fee by calling 888-PA-PARKS or online at www.visitPAparks.com.

If not reserved, the picnic pavilion is free on a first-come, first-served basis.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 100 acres are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, bear, and turkey. Hunting is prohibited from the skywalk. Adjacent State Game Lands 62 is open to hunting.

Hunting woodchucks, also known as groundhogs, is prohibited. Dog training is only permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in designated hunting areas. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission rules and regulations apply. Contact the park office for ADA accessible hunting information.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Other visitors use the park during hunting seasons. Firearms and archery equipment used for hunting may be uncased and ready for use only in authorized hunting areas during hunting seasons. In areas not open to hunting or during non-hunting seasons, firearms and archery equipment shall be kept in the owner’s car, trailer, or leased campsite. Exceptions include: law enforcement officers and individuals with a valid *Pennsylvania License to Carry Firearms* are authorized to carry a firearm concealed on their person while they are within a state park.

History

Placement of the viaduct’s stone bases began in 1881 while the ironwork and entire bridge were completed in 1882. At the time, the Kinzua Viaduct was the highest railroad viaduct in the world. It was constructed as an alternative to laying an additional eight miles of track over rough terrain along the line leading to McKean County’s coal, timber, and oil lands. Built of iron, the original viaduct was approximately 301 feet high, 2,053 feet long, and weighed 3,105,000 pounds.

By 1900, it became necessary to rebuild the entire structure with steel to accommodate heavier trains. Later that year, about 100 to 150 men, working ten-hour shifts, completed

the job in 105 days. The new steel viaduct had the same measurements, but now weighed 6,706,000 pounds.

Freight traffic discontinued in 1959. In 1963, Governor William Scranton signed a law that created Kinzua Bridge State Park. The park officially opened in 1970. In 1977, Kinzua Viaduct received national recognition when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks.

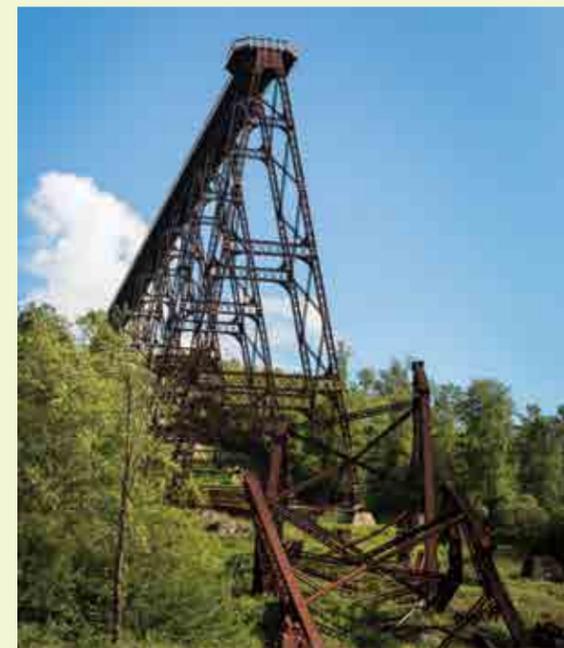


Beginning in 1987, excursion trains traveled from Marienville, Pa., through Allegheny National Forest, stopping on Kinzua Viaduct before returning to its point of origin.

In February 2002, DCNR engineers decided the structure needed a full-scale inspection. In June, DCNR barred excursion trains from the bridge. As the inspection continued, engineers found that sections of steel were rusted through. In August, the bridge was closed to all traffic, including pedestrians.

Engineers determined that high winds could create lateral pressure on the bridge. The wind hitting the bridge could shift the center of gravity, increasing the weight on one side. Such an event could send the whole bridge crashing to the bottom of Kinzua Creek Valley.

Beginning in February, 2003, W. M. Brode Co. of Newcomerstown, Ohio, a national leader in railroad bridge construction and repair, began working to restore Kinzua Viaduct.



On Monday, July 21, 2003, at approximately 3:15 PM, an F1 tornado (wind speed 73 – 112 mph) struck the side of Kinzua Viaduct. Eleven towers from the center of the bridge were torn from their concrete bases and thrown to the valley floor.

Today, park visitors can once again walk a portion of Kinzua Bridge. Built on six restored, original towers, a pedestrian walkway (skywalk) leads to a 225-foot-high observation deck that gives a towering view of the Kinzua Creek Valley. A partial glass floor in the deck reveals a breathtaking glimpse into the steel structure of the bridge. The eleven twisted and scattered bridge towers blown over by the tornado remain at the bottom of the valley for visitors to view from the deck railings. Several benches line the paved walkway to the skywalk. The Picture Taking Platform under the bridge allows visitors to take a unique photo of themselves and the bridge.

Nearby Attractions

Information on nearby attractions is available from the Allegheny National Forest Visitors Bureau, 800-473-9370. www.visitanf.com

Explore Pennsylvania Wilds

Pennsylvania Wilds is two million acres of public lands for hiking, biking, fishing, boating, hunting, and exploration in northcentral Pennsylvania.

Highlights of the area are elk watching, scenic PA 6, Pine Creek Gorge (PA Grand Canyon), the darkest skies in the east at Cherry Springs State Park, and hundreds of miles of backpacking trails, bike paths, and trout fishing streams. www.pawilds.com

Protect and Preserve Our Parks

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Access for People with Disabilities

This symbol indicates facilities and activities that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible to people with disabilities.

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the park you plan to visit.

In an Emergency

Call 911 and contact a park employee. For directions to the nearest hospital, look on bulletin boards and at the visitor center and park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL
 Kane Community Hospital
 4372 Route 6
 Kane, PA 16735
 814-837-8585