Kinzua Bridge State Park

Located in McKean County, 339-acre Kinzua Bridge State Park is home to the reinvented skywalk. The viaduct, once the longest and tallest railroad structure at 2,031 feet long and 301 feet high, was permanently destroyed by a tornado in 2003. Reinvented as a pedestrian walkway in 2011, visitors can walk 600 feet on the remaining support towers, go into the Kinzua Creek Valley, and descend to the glass platform at the end of the skywalk.

The visitor center and park office features great views, self-guided exhibits, and information on the surrounding area.

Recreational Opportunities

skywalk:

The skywalk will be closed when weather conditions are unsafe due to fog and ice or other winter conditions. Contact park for current conditions.

HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING:

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By 1900, it became necessary to rebuild the entire structure with steel to accommodate heavier trains. It took 650 men, working ten-hour shifts, to complete the job in 189 days. The new steel viaduct had the same measurements but now weighed around 778,000 pounds.

Today, the Kinzua Bridge Viaduct is celebrated as a symbol of resilience and innovation. It has become an iconic feature of the Appalachian region, attracting thousands of visitors each year.
Hiking: 2.0 miles of trails

GENERAL KANE TRAIL: 1.6 miles, easiest hiking
The loop trail is named for General Thomas Leiper Kane, the visionary behind the Kinzua Viaduct. During the Civil War, Kane assembled the famed Bucktail Regiment. He also supported slave rights and, later, the Latter-day Saints movement as it migrated westward.

The trail begins and ends at the overflow parking area and wanders through hardwood forests of black cherry and maple trees, which have been ravaged and renewed by nature since the 2003 tornado.

KINZUA CREEK TRAIL: 0.4 mile (one way), most difficult hiking
This steep and challenging trail should only be attempted by visitors with proper footwear and hiking experience.

The trail begins on the paved walkway to the overlook and switchbacks to the valley bottom, giving 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 at the creek. Entering the debris field is prohibited. Hikers must retrace their steps to the trailhead or use the service road shown on the map.

Caution: Hikers on the Kinzua Creek Trail should be in good physical condition, wear sturdy boots, and use caution due to steep trail conditions.

The following guidelines will help ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking experience while at the park.

1. Plan ahead and prepare
   • Find out about the park you’re visiting before you arrive
   • Plan for a safe trip, but be ready for anything

2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
   • Use existing paths to travel between campsites, picnic areas, shower houses, etc.
   • Park only in designated areas and obey all traffic regulations

3. Dispose of waste properly
   • Do not burn food and trash in campfires
   • Place trash in dumpsters, not laundry areas
   • PLEASE RECYCLE

4. Leave what you find
   • Observe, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts
   • Leave picnic tables where you find them
   • Avoid introducing/transporting non-native plant species. Leave wildflowers in place for all to enjoy

5. Minimize campfire impacts
   • Use a gas-fueled stove for cooking; it’s easier to cook on and clean up afterwards
   • Build fires only in designated campfire rings or grills
   • Extinguish all fires and charcoal completely before leaving a campsite

6. Respect Wildlife
   • DO NOT approach wild animals; observe from a distance
   • Never feed wild animals, including ducks and geese
   • Keep wildlife wild by allowing them to forage for food on their own
   • Store food and trash securely

7. Be considerate of other visitors
   • Keep noise down when using the park
   • Where pets are allowed, keep them on a leash and clean up and dispose of pet waste properly
   • Be courteous when using trails, yield to other hikers
   • Always leave the area cleaner than when you found it