

Kinzua Bridge – Skywalk Rehabilitation Project

Kinzua Bridge State Park

The Facts

Kinzua Skywalk

Skywalk Height	225 ft
Original Construction Year	1882
Original Length	2,053 ft
Original Highest Point	301 ft

Rebuilt in	1900
Bridge Collapse	July 21 st 2003
Skywalk opened	Sept 15 th , 2011

History of the Kinzua Bridge State Park Skywalk

Construction on the original railroad bridge started in 1881 and was completed in 1882. Known as the Kinzua Bridge Viaduct, the bridge was rebuilt in 1900 using steel rather than iron to accommodate heavier trains. Freight traffic ended in 1959 and beginning in 1987 excursion trains traveled from Marienville through the Allegheny National Forest to the Kinzua Viaduct before turning around and returning to Marienville.

Kinzua Bridge State Park officially opened in 1970.

In 2002, the bridge was closed to all traffic including pedestrians for repairs. During the project, in July 2003, a tornado struck the side of the Kinzua Viaduct and it partially collapsed. Kinzua Bridge was reimagined as a skywalk to offer visitors a chance to walk out and peer down for stunning views of the Kinzua Valley.

For more information contact:

Alan Johnson, Park Manager
Kinzua Bridge State Park
296 Viaduct Road
Kane PA 16735
(814) 778-5467
kinzuabridgesp@pa.gov



What is happening with the skywalk?

All manmade structures require routine maintenance. During an inspection in 2023, it was determined that the Kinzua Bridge Skywalk remains safe but needs some maintenance to ensure its longevity. A multi-year project beginning at the end of 2024 will add new steel to some areas of the skywalk where the steel supports have been impacted due to exposure to the elements. The Skywalk and Kinzua Creek Trail will be closed to pedestrian traffic during the project so the decking and railroad ties can be removed. As preparations begin for repairs the Skywalk is safe to access and will be open to visitors during the 2024 fall foliage season.

Project Details

The project will include:

- Remove the decking and railroad ties to access the towers
- Add and replace steel in sections where thinning has occurred
- Reinstall railroad ties and decking
- Install new plexiglass for the viewing area
- Replace the handrails
- Blast clean and paint of all of the steel portions of the skywalk

Project Timeline

DCNR's Bureau of Facilities Design and Construction will advertise the project for bids in April 2024. Details remain to be finalized, with a potential timeline following the choice of the contractor being:

- Skywalk and trail closure will begin November 19, 2024
- Anticipated project start date in early 2025
- Anticipated project completion date in fall of 2027

There will be temporary closures in September and October 2024 for equipment mobilization and measurements for ordering materials. Check DCNR's website or call the park office before you visit.

Work will be stopped during winter weather. The skywalk will be opened for approximately two months each fall during the project period to allow for fall foliage viewing.

Visiting Kinzua Bridge During Construction

The Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitor Center features great views, self-guided exhibits, and information about the surrounding area. It will remain open during the construction project. The park's picnic tables, pavilion, playground, and observation deck also will remain open to visitors during the project.

