

**PACD North West Region Meeting
Kinzua Bridge State Park, Kane, PA
March 15, 2017**

*Butler • Clarion • Crawford • Elk • Erie • Forest • Jefferson • Lawrence •
McKean • Mercer • Venango • Warren*

On behalf of the PACD North West Region, you are cordially invited to attend the PACD North West Region Meeting on March 15, 2017 at the Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitor Center, 296 Viaduct Road, Kane, PA 16735.

A charge of \$10.00 will cover lunch. So that we know how many to expect, please **RSVP by March 8, 2017** to Jody Groshek at jdgroshek@mckeancountypa.org or 814.887.4001. Attendees may prepay or bring payment to the meeting. Checks should be made payable to the McKean County Conservation District and mailed to:

Jody Groshek
McKean County Conservation District
17137 Route 6
Smethport, PA 16749

If you have any questions about the meeting, please feel free to contact me at 814.887.3210 or cldlane@mckeancountypa.org. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Cliff Lane

Clifford Lane
North West Region Director



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March 15, 2017**

AGENDA

- 10:00 am Welcome and Introductions – Clifford Lane, North West Region Director
- 10:05 am Set Date for Next Meeting
- 10:10 am Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting
- 10:15 am PACD Business and Report – Brenda Shambaugh, Executive Director
The membership will receive a report from PACD, review a proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment regarding the Voting Rights of Executive Board Members, revisit the proposed PACD Bylaws Amendment as amended by the PACD South West Region in the fall, discuss the 2017 conservation district legislative week, and address any other items of interest.
- 11:45 am Regional Information Sharing
*Due to time constraints, we would ask each district to bring **three items to share**.*
- 12:00 pm Working Lunch
- 12:30 pm Partner Reports
- SCC
 - DEP
 - NRCS
- 1:00 pm Adjourn

Directions

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

Physical Address:
Kinzua Bridge State Park
296 Viaduct Road
Kane, PA 16735



Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitor Center and Park Office

Visitor Center Details

The new visitor center and park office will provide a location for visitors to interact with staff and explore the history of the viaduct. The building will be heated geo-thermally. By using sustainable materials, reducing water use, and decreasing waste production during construction, we hope to earn LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification.

The \$6,900,000 project which began in 2014 is expected to be completed sometime during the summer of 2016. A grand opening event will be scheduled, but a date has not yet been determined.

Once completed the center will be opened year-round with proposed hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and seven days a week operation during peak season - Memorial Day through the end of October. Please remember the park itself is open year-round from 8 a.m. to sunset daily. There is no charge to enter the park, walk on the skywalk or go through the exhibits.

Kinzua Bridge was originally built in

Why We Are Special

1882 and being over 301 feet high and 2,053 feet long it was the tallest and longest railroad bridge in the world!

On July 21, 2003 an F1 tornado struck the middle section of the bridge, throwing the towers to the ground. The towers that remained now have an added deck on the end with a partial glass floor. The Kinzua Skywalk awaits visitors who want to continue to experience the breathtaking views of the valley!



Building Features

The Kinzua Bridge State Park Visitor Center and Park Office features a reception area, gift shop, and spectacular view of the nearby skywalk. Modern restrooms are available. Benches will be nearby providing the visitor a chance to relax.

The new building boasts a total of 11,000 sq. ft. which includes exhibit areas of 1147 sq. ft. upstairs and 1110 sq. ft. downstairs. The exhibits focus on the themes of engineering, environment, energy and history as they relate to the structure and the local area. Some of the exhibits are “hands on” for the enjoyment of our younger visitors, while others entail the use of exciting artifacts and videos for all ages.

An 874 sq. ft. classroom ideal for motor coach or school groups (up to 70 people), features a divider thus giving the option to convert it into two smaller classrooms. A deck wraps around the outside of the classroom for all visitors to view the skywalk and valley.

In the future the conference room and classroom will be available for reservations.

The building is friendly to visitors with disabilities with an accessible restroom near the entrance and an elevator that can be used to go from the first floor exhibit level to the ground level. The lower level doors open with a walkway that will allow the visitor to go directly to the skywalk.

Recreational Opportunities

PICNICKING: The picnic area has shaded picnic tables. Modern restrooms are within walking distance in the visitor center. A picnic pavilion that seats 60 people is accessible to people with disabilities. The pavilion can be reserved. Please see rental information near the bottom.



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. Many species of club mosses and a variety of wildlife species can be seen along the trail.

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

Construction of this switchback trail is still ongoing and provides access to the bottom of the gorge. This steep, challenging trail gives close-up views of the piers for the skywalk and spectacular views of the fallen towers. **Entering the debris field is prohibited.** Hikers must retrace their steps back to the trailhead. Hikers are advised to wear appropriate footwear for this trail.

HUNTING AND FIREARMS: About 100 acres of the park are open to hunting, trapping, and the training of dogs during established seasons. Common game species are deer, bear, turkey, and grouse. Hunting is prohibited from the skywalk. Adjacent State Game Lands 62 is open to hunting with over 8,000 acres.

Use extreme caution with firearms at all times. Read and follow all hunting and firearms rules and regulations posted on the Bureau of State Parks' website. www.visitPAParks.com

Programming Opportunities

Most programs will cover the themes of engineering, the environment, energy, and history of the area. Other topics may be covered per request. For special programming requests, please call the park office at (814) 778-5467. Visit www.dcnr.state.pa for information on currently scheduled programs.

SCHOOL GROUPS: With our focus on the themes of the building, it is no wonder that most of our programs are **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) related! Programs correlate to PA Standards and vary in length. We have "Day Packages" for teachers who would like their class to spend the majority of the day at the park or we have individualized programs for classes that have limited time. Some programs can begin in the group's classroom at school with a follow-up field trip to the park. We have a separate brochure that lists some of the programs/packages offered or if you have a specific topic in mind, please call the park to inquire about availability. **Home School Groups** are encouraged to inquire about these programs as well.

MOTOR COACH GROUPS: We are motor coach friendly! The bus may drive directly to the entrance of the building to drop off the group. While the driver parks the bus in the bus/rv only parking area, the group can use the modern restroom facilities in the building. The group will have the opportunity to go through the exhibits both upstairs and downstairs, take a walk out on the skywalk, and then back to the building to peruse the gift shop and second chance for a restroom stop. The bus driver can then bring the bus back to the front of the building to pick up the group.

OTHER GROUPS: This includes scouts, 4-H, church, or other community groups that would like to visit the park and would like to have an opportunity to learn more with a program.

SPECIAL DAYS: The third weekend in September is our popular Kinzua Bridge Fall Festival. This event has vendors, music, and a whole lot of fun! Stop by and enjoy it!

VOLUNTEERS: The park is always looking for volunteers to help in the many different aspects of the park and the building. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us!



Directions

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

For GPS devices, use:

GPS DD: Lat.: 41.75953 Long.: 78.58702

Physical Address:

Kinzua Bridge State Park
296 Viaduct Road
Kane, PA 16735

Make online reservations for pavilion rental 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.

Important reminder to all visitors: it is prohibited to enter the debris field due to safety reasons caused by unstable towers and trees.

More Information

Kinzua Bridge State Park
296 Viaduct Road
Kane, PA 16735
814-778-5467
email: kinzuabridgesp@pa.gov

GPS: Lat. 41.75915 Long. -78.58681

www.visitPAParks.com



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

