

Pontiac's Three Historic Swinging Bridges

Pontiac, Illinois has three unique and historic swinging pedestrian bridges that cross the Vermilion River at various points within the city. The earliest of these bridges was built at the turn of the 20th century for the practical purpose of allowing shoe factory workers who lived on the south side of town a convenient way of getting to the factories located on the north side of town. The second bridge was built during the heydays of the Pontiac Chautauqua Assembly movement and allowed patrons of the two-week long Chautauqua to get from one side of the river to the other without having to travel up to the Mill Street Bridge.



The newest Swinging Bridge is located in Humiston-Riverside Park and was built in the 1980s. This bridge has a very large observation platform attached and is the only swinging bridge located below the Mill Street dam. It was constructed for aesthetic purposes only.

Walking across any of the three bridges is an experience you will not soon forget.

