

= Son of Beast =

Son of Beast was a record @-@ breaking wooden roller coaster located at Kings Island in Mason , Ohio . Built and designed by the now defunct Roller Coaster Corporation of America , it opened to the public on May 26 , 2000 , and was themed as a sequel to one of the park 's other signature attractions , The Beast . In addition to breaking the world record for speed , Son of Beast was the first wooden hypercoaster in the world with a 214 @-@ foot (65 m) drop and was the first wooden coaster to feature an inversion .

Son of Beast is also known for two major , non @-@ fatal accidents . In 2006 , damage to the track caused one of the trains to stop abruptly . Another setback occurred in 2009 , when a woman claimed to have suffered a head injury . The ride was closed indefinitely , and all references to the ride were later removed from the park . On July 27 , 2012 , the closure was made permanent , as Kings Island announced that the roller coaster would be dismantled and removed from the park .

= = History = =

The Roller Coaster Corporation of America discussed the idea of a building the world 's first wooden hypercoaster with Kings Island in 1997 . The park announced plans to build Son of Beast on May 11 , 1999 . As part of a marketing campaign for the ride before its debut , a box was placed next to a footpath in the park . Beastly growling and snarling noises came from inside the box as it shook violently . During the announcement , the box was revealed to the audience along with a model of the roller coaster and a list of seven world records that would be broken when it came into operation . The sign at the ride 's entrance featured a large wooden box covered with chains , rope , and metal straps . The front was ripped open with the name " Son of Beast " centered inside the box . Problems plagued the ride from the start and as a result , Paramount Parks , the park 's then @-@ owner , fired RCCA before construction was completed . The park had to make several design corrections during Son of Beast 's initial year .

The ride originally operated with three trains designed by Premier Rides . Each one consisted of six cars for a total capacity of thirty @-@ six . The trains were shortened to five cars before the 2006 season . After the ride 's first major incident , the trains were replaced altogether with lighter models before the ride reopened the following season . The loop was also removed during this time .

After another major incident occurred in 2009 , it was announced that Son of Beast would be closed indefinitely . References to Son of Beast were removed from the park 's website and map in early 2010 . All signage , including the box at the entrance , was also removed .

On March 15 , 2010 , the General Manager of Kings Island , Greg Scheid , stated that the park had spent nearly \$ 30 million on the ride to date , and that it would not reopen for the 2010 season . Another Kings Island spokesperson , Don Helbig , announced in 2011 that the ride would again be closed for the 2011 season , and that the ride 's future had not yet been decided . " No decision has been made concerning the ride 's future , " spokesman Don Helbig said . " It would be inappropriate to speculate on when a decision might be made . There 's nothing else to talk about . " Kings Island announced on April 24 , 2012 , that there are no plans to operate Son of Beast in 2012 , and they 're still evaluating options .

On July 27 , 2012 , following a thorough evaluation of the roller coaster , Kings Island announced that Son of Beast will be removed from the park to make room for future expansion . Demolition began in mid @-@ September 2012 . On November 20 , one of the last remaining parts of the structure , the lift hill , was demolished . A new roller coaster called Banshee was completed in April 2014 and is now in the same location previously occupied by Son of Beast .

= = Layout = =

After loading the train , riders left the station making a 51 @-@ foot (16 m) left @-@ hand drop into a series of short hops before turning into the 218 @-@ foot @-@ tall (66 m) lift hill . At the crest of the lift hill , the track made a left @-@ hand turn over to the first drop , where it dropped 214

feet (65 m) to the ground followed by a 70 @-@ degree banked turn to the right . Riders then descended 168 feet (51 m) down a second drop into a left @-@ hand double helix . Coming out of the helix , the train passed through a mid @-@ course brake run dropping into a straight section of track (where the vertical loop was prior to 2006) , before entering another helix , riding a series of short hills. and ending at the final brake run . One cycle of the ride lasted about 2 minutes and 20 seconds .

= = = Materials used = = =

Main Structure : Southern Yellow Pine
Track Piles : Douglas Fir
Loop Structure : Steel (removed December 2006)
Loop Track : Wood
Timber used : 2 @. @ 5 million board feet
Acres of land used : 12
Footers : 2 @, @ 414 footers , 11 feet (3 @. @ 4 m) into the ground
Bolts : 225 @, @ 000 21 " steel bolts
Nails : Over 22 short tons (20 @, @ 000 kg) of nails

= = World records = =

At the time of its introduction in 2000 , Son of Beast was the only wooden roller coaster nationally ranked in the top 10 for track height , track length , drop height , and speed . It set several world records becoming the tallest and fastest wooden roller coaster in the world , as well as becoming the second longest following its predecessor , The Beast . Son of Beast was also the only wooden roller coaster to feature a vertical loop , though the loop was later removed after an accident in 2006 . Prior to its removal , the vertical loop also made Son of Beast the longest roller coaster in the world to contain one . Following its removal , California Screamin ' at Disney California Adventure acquired the title .

The seven world records held at its introduction were :

Tallest wooden roller coaster
Longest wooden roller coaster drop
Fastest wooden roller coaster
Only looping wooden roller coaster (2000 ? 2006)
Longest looping roller coaster (2000 ? 2006)
Most wooden coaster track at one park (22 @, @ 612 feet or 6 @, @ 892 metres)
First and only wooden hypercoaster in the world (over 200 feet or 61 metres high)

= = Incidents = =

= = = 2006 = = =

On July 9 , 2006 at 4 : 45 pm , a structural failure in the ' Rose Bowl ' section of the ride created a bump on the track that caused a train to come to an abrupt stop . Twenty @-@ seven injuries were reported in the accident and rescue units were required to evacuate the riders . Most of the injuries were of the chest or neck . Seventeen people were released from the hospital within five hours of the accident , and two were admitted . None of the injuries were life @-@ threatening . After an inspection the following day , the park stated that the accident was caused by a crack or split in the wood . The ride was shut down for an extended period of time , while the park worked with the State of Ohio to complete a full investigation . The park completed repairs of the ride but the state asked for extensive testing to be done to ensure it would not happen again . The park indicated that the ride would not reopen until the 2007 season .

Two trains designed by Gerstlauer from the demolished Hurricane : Category 5 coaster at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion were purchased by Kings Island to serve as lighter replacements for original Son of Beast trains . The lighter trains were used to reduce the overall load on the wooden structure . The loop was also removed during this time to assist the lighter trains in completing the circuit . The park also claimed that the changes helped make the ride more comfortable .

In late June 2007 , reports circulated that the park was testing the new Gerstlauer trains . Eyewitnesses reported red and blue trains running on the track with test dummies in the seats . On July 4 , 2007 , Son of Beast reopened for the first time since the accident the year before . Despite the lack of the vertical loop , the coaster continued to hold the record as tallest and fastest wooden roller coaster in the world .

= = = 2009 = = =

On June 16 , 2009 , a woman claimed to have suffered a head injury from riding Son of Beast during her visit to the park on May 31 , 2009 . She did not report the incident to Kings Island officials prior to June 16 . She claimed to have suffered from a burst blood vessel in her brain , after riding Son of Beast , that required admission to an intensive care unit at a nearby hospital . " The first we heard of this was on June 16 . Her visit was on May 31 and there 's no record of going to first aid for anything here at the park , " said Don Helbig , public relations manager for Kings Island . Helbig also pointed out that there were no other reports of injuries on the ride that year . The Son of Beast was shut down as a precaution , however , during the investigation . " At this point it would be inappropriate to speculate on an exact date when the ride may reopen . We 're going to do a thorough maintenance review . We 're going to work with the state of Ohio on that , " said Helbig .

An investigation followed , and no irregularities were found with the ride . A summary of that investigation was released later , on July 29 . Despite the findings , the roller coaster remained closed and never reopened .

= = = 2012 = = =

Demolition of ' Son of Beast ' occurred in the Spring of 2012 .