

Overlooking Upper St. Croix Lake, is a beautiful log pavilion with a huge stone fireplace. This pavilion can be rented for parties, wedding, and other group activities. There is a handicap accessible, open-air bateau shelter complete with grills and picnic tables, which can be used at no charge, and other numerous picnic areas with tables and grills located throughout the park.

Near the pavilion is an open-air performing arts amphitheater that is the summer home of the Duluth-Superior Symphony

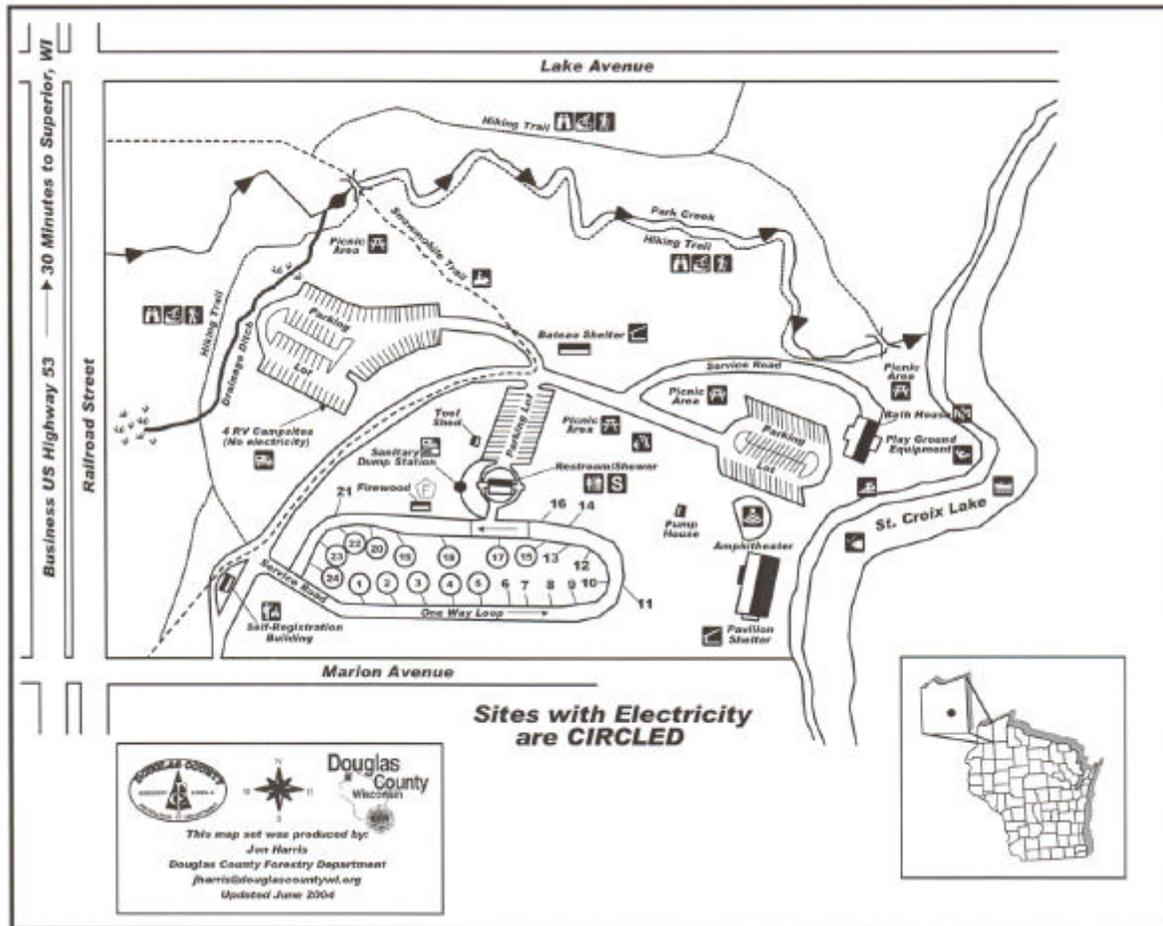
Orchestra and also showcases a variety of musical and artistic groups. The amphitheater was constructed out of native Red Pine logs and lined with tongue and grooved Tamarack for its acoustical characteristics. All of this woods was harvested from the Douglas County Forest. The Lucius Woods Performing Arts Board governs the amphitheater and questions regarding scheduling or admission fees should be addressed to this board at: (715) 378-4272, P.O. Box 295, Solon Spring, WI 54873, or email to [luciuswoods@lwmusic.org](mailto:luciuswoods@lwmusic.org).



## The Douglas County Forestry Department



### Lucius Woods County Park



9182 E. Hughes Avenue  
 P.O. Box 211  
 Solon Springs, WI 54873

TEL: (715) 378-2219  
 FAX: (715) 378-2807

E-MAIL: [forestry@douglascountywi.org](mailto:forestry@douglascountywi.org)

## Lucius Woods County Park

One of the most unique stands of virgin White and Norway Pine in Wisconsin is perpetuated in Lucius Woods, located in the heart of Douglas County in the Village of Solon Springs, approximately 30 miles south of Superior and easily accessible from Highway 53. The park sits on the west bank of Upper Lake St. Croix and is the center of the water highway, which first brought the European explorers, missionaries and fur traders to the interior of the American continent.

The divide near the north end of the Lake St. Croix is the result of the glacier of 10,000 years ago. It created the unusual flows of the Brule and St. Croix Rivers. The Brule runs north to Lake Superior while the St. Croix River runs south to the Mississippi.

Located on the east side of Lake St. Croix is the famed Portage Trail used by Daniel Greysolon Du Lhut in about 1680, as he made his way from Lake Superior via the Bois Brule and the St. Croix to the Mississippi. This Portage Trail became the major route for the fur trade. It was also traveled by Marquette and Joliet.

These French voyagers built huge birch bark canoes, 40 feet in length, 3 feet deep and 5 feet wide. They would float four tons of freight and yet could be carried by four men over the difficult portage. Each canoe carried a crew of eight men. As many as sixty canoes traveled along the shores at one time.

Du Lhut proclaimed this land for France and christened the post he built there "Fort Saint Croix". He began to barter and trade with the Chippewa and Sioux tribes. Many hundreds of people inhabited the huge log fort. Its main feature was the large hall where traders, trappers, and explorers met. At mealtime, the long dining tables were laden with many foods including venison, fish, corn, potatoes, wild rice, maple sugar and syrup. Tea, milk, and wine were the beverages served. Sometime later,

forts were built at Superior and Duluth. At the fort, the French met on friendly terms with the Native American people. Powerful Native American Chiefs stood in the assemblage. It was their contribution of food, medicine and clothing that helped make survival possible.

History tells us that a map put forth by Jeffry's in 1762 marks Fort Saint Croix as destroyed. The English flag waved over the ruins. In 1836, this area became a port of Wisconsin Territory and was known as Nebagamon, meaning, "overnight stop".

Later, this area was called "White Birch" because of the many White Birch trees along the lakeshore. The trees provided bark for canoes as well as many household utensils. In 1896, the name of the town itself was once more changed. This time to Solon Springs, in honor of Thomas Solon who built a water bottling company at the south end of the lake. He sold sparkling spring water that was shipped all over the United States via the railroad.

The Native American tribes used what is now Lucius Woods Park and the Portage Trail as late as 1900, while on their annual trek to and from Washburn, located on the shore of Lake Superior, where they received their annual stipend from the government. It was there they buried their dead. This then became a part of Wisconsin's own "Trail of Tears".

A major portion of the site, now occupied by Lucius Woods Park, was originally owned by the former Omaha Railroad. The property was purchased from the railroad by a group from Eau Claire, Wisconsin who operated a hunting and fishing retreat until the site was purchased by Nick Lucius and three other parties in 1891.

Several years later, Nick Lucius and P.E. Waterbury bought the other two out. During the Lucius-Waterbury partnership, ten cabins were constructed on the property and tourists moved their families up to Solon Springs by train to stay for several weeks or the entire summer.

In 1945, Mr. Lucius bought out Mr. Waterbury and continued to operate the park for day-use and camping. In 1950, Mr. Lucius sold the property to the State of Wisconsin for a state park. In 1990, the State deeded the property to Douglas County.

The park was officially named Lucius Woods County Park in recognition of Mr. Lucius for his efforts in conserving the virgin growth woods, which has resulted in the beautiful park setting of today.

Lucius Woods Park, consisting of approximately 40 acres on the banks of the Upper Lake St. Croix, provides a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities, including swimming, camping, canoeing, picnicking, hiking, or simply relaxing on the beach.



The park has a large, handicap accessible sandy beach area with picnic tables and grills, playground equipment for children, and restrooms. The 855 acre lake is very popular for fishing, boating and water-skiing and there are several public boat landings near the park allowing easy access to the lake for boaters and canoeists.

The campground area has 24 campsites, including 13 with electrical hook-ups, all nestled among large White and Red Pine trees and smaller Hemlock and White Spruce. There are fire rings, picnic tables, benches and plenty of firewood available. The restrooms include hot water showering facilities and there is a sanitary dump station that is easily accessible.

Two recent windstorms did significant damage to Lucius Woods. Many of the old growth trees were destroyed. Reforestation efforts have begun so we ask you to please "tread lightly" in replanted areas.

There is self-registration for camping with a minimal fee and we do not take reservations for our campsites, they are always on a "first come, first served" basis. Please self-register at the small building located at the entrance to the park.

For further information, questions, or comments, please contact the Douglas County Forestry Department at: (715) 378-2219, P.O. Box 211, Solon Springs, WI 54873, or email to forestry@douglascountywi.org.