

March 2020

DES MOINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**HISTORYGRAM**  
DesMoinesHistoricalSociety.org

## Crocker Woods Park

At the north end of 9<sup>th</sup> avenue



### Newspaper items:

- Crocker Woods Park was the forerunner of Ingersoll Park. It was owned by the street railway company and had been used as an amusement ground. There was a theater of the vaudeville sort, plenty of good boating, a switchback, bowling alley and other things of the sort. June 1907
- Going to Crocker Woods on Belt Line Electric cars. Sep 1891
- Free circus at Crocker Woods twice a day this week – 2 pm and 8 pm. Take Sixth avenue or Ninth street cars. May 1895
- Union band every afternoon and night this week at Crocker Woods. May 1895
- Japanese gymnasts and Boston quartet at Crocker Woods – free. June 1895
- Miss Chartrus the Queen of Lady Whistlers will whistle some beautiful selections and also sing "Darling Mabel". July 1895
- Crocker Woods this week acrobatic monkeys, skirt dancing dogs, performing bears. August 1895

The "Grand Inaugural" of the Switchback at Crocker Woods was August 2, 1893. "The Wonder of the age. Thompson's Celebrated Switchback Pleasure Railway. A rapid rate of speed and a wonderfully exciting ride with guaranteed safety. The greatest pleasure scheme of the age. Good music in attendance. The steps to the park have been removed and an elegant walk built on an easy grade into the grounds." It was still being enjoyed in the summer of 1905.

