

Could This Be Your Future ?

It's early morning as the two of you step from your cabin. You zip your jackets against the cool autumn air as you fill your lungs with the aroma of the dew dampened forest, mingled with the scent of wood smoke from your fireplace.

The sun, just above the tree line slants its rays through the crimson, yellow and orange leaves of the mature oaks and maples that surround you. Somewhere in the distance a blue jay calls to it's mate that sits above you in a century old white pine. Droplets of dew cling to every leaf looking like a million tiny diamonds as they reflect the morning sunshine. The forest floor is soft underfoot. You feel exhilarated and a sense of adventure comes over you as it does everyday when you explore the miles of wilderness trails of Crystal Brook Woods!

Your first stop this morning will be Crystal Brook Point. You know that if you walk slowly to the shoreline you may see a brook trout before it darts into the shadows of deep water. The crystal clear water of big Roche-A-Cri Creek, flowing over its golden sand bottom, sparkles in the early morning sunshine.

From Crystal Brook Point, you've decided to follow the trail northeast along the nearly 9,000 feet of stream frontage to other isolated shoreline approaches like Heron Landing, Otter Point and Sioux Lookout. You know that if you walk quietly, that at any place along the trail, the chances are good that you will encounter white tail deer, wild turkeys or other wildlife that abound in your unspoiled nature conservancy.

As you begin your journey, you know that your hike along the woodland trails will take you to wildlife observation points, picnic locations and to the family pavilion where your whole crew enjoyed a cookout just last week.

You tell yourself you had better get moving. There are miles of trails to cover and later you plan to launch your canoe from Heron Landing and paddle all the way to Castle Rock Lake. And, if there is time before sunset, you just might walk across the road for a little pheasant hunting on the 3,000 acres of public forest land.

There is a part of you that wants to plan every minute in this paradise, yet you restrain yourself. You remind yourself that nature moves at its own pace out here. If all you do today is relax and enjoy the peace and solitude of this wonderland with your family, that will be just fine. After all, there's a new adventure and a new discovery around every bend in the trail, atop every wooded knoll and just over where the stream rounds the bend.

Crystal Brook Woods