



2025 “Nature Near You” Photo Contest

Do you love the outdoors and need a great reason to get outside and experience the *Nature Near You*? Look no further, now's your chance to participate in the 12th Annual *Nature Near You* photo contest!

Overview

Submit up to five photos celebrating our natural environment in southeastern Michigan in a JPEG (.jpg) file format to SixRiversPhotos@gmail.com. Photo submissions will be accepted through **September 9, 2025**. All photos that meet our guidelines will be eligible and available for public viewing. This year's photo contest will differ from previous years. We have four new categories for submission: Landscapes & Flora, Birds, Wildlife, and Special Category 'Six Rivers Preserves'. There will be 1st and 2nd place winners for each of the four categories. Finalists will be selected via vote by Six Rivers staff and colleagues. Staff that vote for finalists will not know the identity of the photographers. Once finalists are determined, the first and second place entries for each category will be selected by online vote. The online poll will be posted on Six Rivers social media and emailed to members of the Six Rivers mailing list.

Enlargements of the finalist photos will be auctioned at the Conservation Celebration held the following year. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Conservancy's work in land conservation and preservation.

Categories, Criteria, & Prizes

1st Place Winner: \$100

2nd Place Winner: \$75

Landscapes & Flora: Includes any scenic landscape photo or close-up photos of plants & fungi

Birds: Due to the large amount of bird photography we receive we decided to make 'Birds' it's own category

Wildlife: Any wildlife that does not include captive animals. Birds cannot be submitted in this category

Special Category 2025- 'Six Rivers Protected Properties!': Photos must be taken from one of the protected properties listed below and can include landscape, flora, birds, & wildlife, however, photos submitted in the 'Special Category' are ineligible for other categories.

- **Anchor Bay Woods Preserve-** 37885 Green St, New Baltimore, MI 48047

- **Sutherland Nature Sanctuary-** 3998 Diehl Rd, Metamora, MI 48455
- **Golden Preserve-** Reach out for further directions
- **Nicholson Nature Center-** 21777 Dunham Rd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036
- **Salt River Nature Preserve-** 33210 Hooker Rd, New Baltimore, MI 48047
- **Drayton Plains Nature Center-** 2125 Denby Dr, Waterford Twp, MI 48329
- **Tibbits Nature Sanctuary-** 4089 Columbiaville Road, Columbiaville, MI 48421
- **Bear Creek Nature Park-** 740 W Snell Rd, Rochester, MI 48306
- **Cranberry Lake Park-** 388 W Predmore Rd #384, Oakland Township, MI 48363

If you are unsure of which category to submit to, take your best guess and reach out to the contact with any questions.

Contest Rules

1. You need not be a supporter of the Conservancy to enter, although we encourage your support of our program of conservation to maintain a high quality of life in Southeastern Michigan.
2. Photos must be taken within the Six Rivers service area – Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, Lapeer and St. Clair Counties – within two years of submission date.
3. Entries must be anonymous (no name on the photo) and accompanied with a completed submission form. **Entries submitted without a form will not be accepted.**
4. **All files must be in a JPEG (.jpg) format.**
5. Participants are limited to no more than five entries, but entries can be split amongst categories. Only one prize will be awarded per entrant.
6. The subject of the ‘Special Category’ is ineligible for other categories.
7. All images must be faithful to the scenery or subject matter. Images that include significant alteration and deviation from the original photographic image are not acceptable. Clarity of the landscape and nature theme is a major criterion for judging. Captive animals are not considered natural subject matter.
8. The artist grants unlimited use of submitted photos to the Conservancy for publications, displays, web pages, presentations and other Conservancy purposes with credit given to the artist.

Acceptance Notification

Everyone who submits an image will receive an email notification of the accepted image within one week of submission. If an email confirmation is not received, the file was not received. Six Rivers is not responsible for files that have not been received. Those with images chosen as

finalists for an award will be notified at the time of selection and must make arrangements with Six Rivers' staff to sign an enlarged version of their photo.

Use Rights

By submission of their photograph(s), artists grant Six Rivers Land Conservancy the right to use their images for display on printed and emailed materials or other Conservancy marketing purposes with credit given to the artist. By submission to the contest, artists grant the use of their image(s) as stated without further contact or compensation from the Conservancy. The artist further states that by the submission of these images, he/she owns the rights to these images. All images submitted are the property of the artist and the artist retains the copyright to said images.

Submission

Submit up to five photos celebrating our natural environment in Southeastern Michigan via email in a JPEG (.jpg) file format to SixRiversPhotos@gmail.com. A completed Submission Form must be submitted for each photo file submitted. Size of photo determines the contest category: Juried or Enthusiast. Photo submissions will be accepted through September 9, 2025. Please contact Community Engagement Coordinator, Hollie Coleman, at hcoleman@sixriversrlc.org with any questions.

Six Rivers Land Conservancy 2025 Photo Contest Submission Form

****This form must be submitted with each entry****

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date of Photo: _____

Title (Artwork title, not file name):

Location of shot (city, county, park etc.): _____ - _____

Category for Submittal (Landscape & Flora, Birds, Wildlife, Special Category):

Other information about the shot or location (optional):
