

# Alliance of Downriver Watersheds

## 2024 Focus on Downriver Water Photo Contest

### Official Rules and Guidelines

**NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS CONTEST. ENTRY IN THIS CONTEST CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES.**

### General Contest Information

The sponsor of this contest is the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW).

The purpose of the 2024 Focus on Downriver Water Photo Contest is to educate residents of ADW communities about everyday actions that contribute to the health of the watersheds.

In these Rules and Guidelines, “Alliance of Downriver Watersheds” and “ADW” means the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds and its members, constituents and partners, including the Huron River Watershed Council. “Entrant” refers to the person reading these rules in order to submit a photograph to the 2024 Focus on Downriver Water Photo Contest.

### Who May Enter

(a) The contest is open to both amateur and professional photographers. **Amateur photographers are encouraged to enter.**

(b) **You must currently be a resident of the Downriver area, preferably an ADW member community, OR you can be a student, parent, teacher at a school from an ADW member community.** ADW member communities: Allen Park, Belleville, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, Flat Rock, Gibraltar, Grosse Ile Township, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Riverview, Rockwood, Romulus, Southgate, Sumpter Township, Taylor, Trenton, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Westland, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, or Wyandotte. You must be able to provide proof of residence upon request.

(c) If you are under 13, a parent, guardian, or teacher must sponsor your entry

### Official Rules

- 1) The contest will run from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 through August 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. There will be three categories: (1) Michigan native plants, trees or wildflowers: (2) Nature in the Downriver area (3) A wetland, pond, stream or river in the Downriver area. Submissions for each category will be accepted at [allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com/contest](http://allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com/contest) through

11:59pm EST August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Submissions past this time window are not eligible for a prize. ADW is not responsible for entries that are lost, late, misdirected, unintelligible, illegible, incomplete, or damaged due to technical or user errors of any kind.

- 2) You must acknowledge that you have read and agreed to these contest rules to submit a photograph.
- 3) Submitted photographs must be your original work taken within the last five (5) years and your property.
- 4) Posting photographs to social media using the hashtag #downriverwater is encouraged, but **only** photographs submitted with the official entry form on [allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com](http://allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com) will be considered for the contest. You may submit a photograph through [allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com](http://allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com) and post it separately on social media.
- 5) All photographs must be submitted in digital format, as a jpeg file. They **must be at least 1600 x 1600 pixels and between 1MB/1000KB to 4MB/4000KB.**
- 6) Heavily retouched or modified photographs are **strongly discouraged.**
- 7) Entrants may submit multiple photographs per category.
- 8) Upon request, Entrants must be able to provide written proof that the people and owners of the property featured in each photograph give ADW permission to use their likeness or their property's likeness in the ADW 2024 calendar, website, and in other promotional and educational materials. The Entrant is entirely responsible for any legal liabilities resulting from a failure to obtain written permission.
- 9) Photographs must not infringe any copyright or trademark rights or violate any rights of privacy or publicity. (See above.) Photographs must not contain any logos, advertisements, or political messaging.
- 10) Entrants agree that by submitting a photo to the contest they are granting the ADW license to use it for educational and promotional purposes now and into the future without compensation.
- 11) All photographs must be appropriate for a calendar that hangs in family homes and public workspaces. Photographs must not contain any nudity, obscenity, violence, sexually explicit or other inappropriate material, or material that could be considered defamatory to an individual, group, or harmful to the environment.
- 12) Photographs in violation of any of the above Official Rules will be disqualified at the sole and final discretion of ADW.

## Prizes

After all entries have been received for the contest, a panel of judges from ADW will review all entries and select a first, second, third, and fourth place for each of the three categories (12 winners in total). The winners will be contacted by email in the month of September. If the ADW does not receive a response within seven (7) days, the prize will go to the next runner-up.

If not enough entries were submitted for a particular category, or if no entries meet the minimum reasonable criteria for a prize, at ADW's sole and final discretion, a prize may not be awarded.

Prizes are not subject to negotiation or exchange.

## Additional Terms and Conditions

(a) Any attempt by an individual to deliberately damage any website or undermine the legitimate operation of this contest is a violation of criminal and civil laws, and should such an attempt be made, ADW reserves the right to seek damages from any such individual.

(b) ADW is not responsible for errors of any kind, technical hardware or software failures of any kind, including any injury or damage to any person's computer, related to or resulting from participating in the contest.

(c) This Contest is governed by the laws of the State of Michigan. All claims relating in any manner to this contest or to any submission must be resolved in the federal or state courts of Michigan, United States. All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of these Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of participants and ADW in connection with the contest, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Michigan.

## Photography Judging Criteria

Contest entries will be judged upon the following minimum reasonable criteria:

### **Clarity:**

(a) The subject of the photo is clear—in focus, centered or obvious, and visible. Check your photos for blurriness, graininess, washed-out colors, a dark foreground, or other qualities that would make it confusing to a viewer.

(b) The photo responds to the prompt in a recognizable way. Entrants are also required to write a sentence or two about what inspired their photo or the circumstances under which it happened. This may be edited and published as a caption on [allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com](http://allianceofdownriverwatersheds.com), on ADW social media channels or in other ADW digital and print materials.

**Creativity:** The photo portrays its subject in a way that is creative, fun, or thought-provoking.

**Quality:** Entrants do not need expensive photography equipment to take a good photograph. However, the most successful photos will be visually striking or pleasing, make good use of light, and have good composition. Photographs must be sufficient quality and resolution to be printed in an upcoming calendar: at least 1600X1600 pixels, and between 1 and 4 MB.

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***Additional Guidelines for contest entries:***

- If you take photos on a smart phone, only submit photos straight from your phone or camera. Do not download photos from Facebook or similar apps to submit.
- If you are taking photos on a smart phone, do NOT crop or sharpen your photos. This decreases image quality and resolution, which may result in a photo that is not usable for print materials. Although sharpening may make your picture look better on screen, it creates weird “artifacts” that become obvious when enlarged and printed.
- If you are using a non-smartphone camera, use caution with photo retouching software when cropping or sharpening, and do not “res up” the image (artificially increasing the resolution). Also, please be prepared to provide the unretouched image if needed.