

OVERVIEW

Journey through the seventeen Portage parks and capture moments to share in this first annual Parks Photo Contest. In collaboration with the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Portage Parks & Recreation is seeking submission of photos from all seasons in four categories: Seasonal Changes; Outdoor Recreation; Flora, Fauna & Wildlife; and Youth (14 years of age and under).

Contest Summary

(Please read all Official Rules before submitting entries)

- All photos must be taken at one of the seventeen City of Portage parks
- Entries must be submitted between September 1 – December 31, 2017
- Entries must be sent via email; minimum size 2MB at 300 resolution
- Limit three entries per category
- Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form
- Photos will be judged by a panel of area photography professionals
- Entry costs are \$10 for up to three entries per category except youth (i.e., maximum \$30 for nine entries); \$5 for up to three entries in the Youth Category
- Prizes 1st-\$75 & 2nd-\$50 & 3rd-\$25 for each of the four categories.

The first place winners in each category will be recognized in City of Portage publications throughout the year. The top three entries in each category will be displayed at the Portage City Hall during the month of February, then be included in the Photo Contest Exhibition in the Celery Flats Grain Elevator from March 1 - 11, 2018 with other entries from the contest.

OFFICIAL RULES

Four Categories

- A. Seasonal Changes – Photos showing the wonders of our parks in its many colors.
- B. Outdoor Recreation – Photos representing the parks as a special place for recreation in nature and natural settings from forests, beaches to fishing, trail riding and other outdoor experiences.
- C. Flora, Fauna & Wildlife – Photos that capture the details of the plant and animal life within city parks and trails
- D. Youth (14 years of age and under) - Entries for this category can be photos depicting any of the three existing category themes above. Photographers must 14 years of age or under to be considered.

Submission Guidelines

- All photos need to be taken at one of the seventeen City of Portage parks.
- Recommended photo size is 2 MB with high resolution (300 dpi). (Maximum email size 9 MB).
- An entry form for each category and payment must be made by December 31, 2017 online at www.portagemi.gov then click the purple Recreation Facilities button to access the online registration system. Participants can also fill out an entry form and pay at the Parks & Recreation office at 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI in the lower level of City Hall. *No refunds of payments will be made.*
- Photo entries must be emailed by December 31, 2017 to ***milbecka@portagemi.gov***.
- All photos must have the following format as the file name: Last Name, First Name, Category Code (A, B, C, or D), Entry Number (i.e. SmithJohnA1).
- Limit of 3 photos per person in each category.
- Entries may be color or black and white.
- Photo must be in .jpeg or .jpg format.

- Photo must not depict anything contrary to the rules of the park or trail where the photo was taken.
- Photo must have been taken and owned by the person submitting (e.g., copyright has not been sold to another person or entity).
- Entries must not include any material protected by copyright or trademark law, including brand names, logos, graphics, pictures, text or other property belonging to a third party. Entries may not violate an individual's rights, including but not limited to, the right to privacy or publicity.

Judging

All photos will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will choose the top three winning photos in each category, which will be announced by January 31, 2018. The judges will use the following criteria when deciding the winning images:

- Composition (e.g., framing of the shot, balance of elements).
- Technical Quality (e.g., lighting, crispness, color, focus, etc.).
- How well the photo fits the theme and showcases a particular park and/or trail in the City of Portage (e.g., capturing the unique beauty, experience or natural life within the park or trail).

Prizes & Recognition

- The top three winners from each category receive
 - 1st - \$70
 - 2nd - \$50
 - 3rd - \$25
- 1st place in each category will also have their photo featured in City of Portage publications throughout the year.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will be recognized on the Parks & Recreation Facebook page and be exhibited in Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage MI) during the month of February 2018. All winners and contest entries will be exhibited in the Celery Flats Grain Elevator (7328 Garden Lane, Portage MI) from March 1 – 11, 2018.
- Winners will be notified by January 31, 2018 before the announcement is made on the city website, in news releases and on social media outlets.

Eligibility

Any photographer can submit pictures for the contest; however, City of Portage staff and their immediate families may not compete for awards. The City of Portage Parks & Recreation Department reserves the right to reject entries which might be deemed in poor taste. No purchase necessary to enter or win.

Entry Deadline

Each entry from, payment and photos must be submitted to the City of Portage Parks & Recreation Department, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI or by email to milbecka@portagemi.gov by 5 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017. For additional information, you may contact Portage Parks & Recreation at 269-321-4521.

Promotions

This photography contest is an annual event to promote the environmental, recreational and historical resources of the City of Portage park system. The City of Portage and the Parks & Recreation Department will receive the right to reproduce, at its own expense, any photo/image receiving an award of recognition in this contest for promotional purposes. The City of Portage may also request the use of other contest entries to be used in a promotional capacity including its printed materials, website and social media outlets after the contest. The City of Portage, City of Portage Parks & Recreation Department and the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and other contest sponsors are not be responsible for damaged or stolen photos.

Please direct any question to the City of Portage Parks & Recreation Department at 269-329-4521.