



SWCD Photo Contest 2018

The Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Photo Contest is open to amateur photographers who are residents of Hamilton County. Participants can enter as many as five photos total each year. Each photo has to fit in one of the two photo categories listed below.

The Hamilton County SWCD has provided required entry instructions that provide a complete description of how to submit photographs, accepted photo formats, judging, use of the photos and prizes. Please follow these instructions and guidelines carefully to ensure eligibility in the contest.

If you have questions, please contact the Soil and Water Conservation office at 317-773-2181 or by email at soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

Photo Categories

Before taking your photos or submitting them for the contest, please review the detailed explanation of the photo categories. Judges reserve the right to determine if a photograph is appropriately categorized and change a photograph's category accordingly.

1. Then and Now – Celebrating 50 Year of Conservation (TN)
2. Pollinators in Color (P)

Awards

One winner will be selected for each category and age division. Persons age 18 and over as of July 1, 2018 will compete in the adult age division. Persons younger than 18 will compete in the youth age division. Each first place winner will receive a \$50 cash prize. Honorable mention award winners will be selected for each category but will not receive a monetary award. Winning photos will be displayed at the Hamilton County 4-H Fair. Our intent will be to show as many entries as possible at the county fair. Prizes will be awarded by the Hamilton County SWCD following the 4-H fair in July.

Entry Instructions

1. **Complete and submit 'Entry and Photo Release Form'** for *each* photo entered.
The release form can be scanned and emailed or printed filled out by hand and submitted by mail to: Hamilton County SWCD, 1717 Pleasant Street, Suite 100, Noblesville, IN 46060. Please note, photos **MUST** be submitted electronically, even if you submit form(s) by mail.
2. **Submit electronic photo files** via email according to entry guidelines to soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov Please note that if your entries do not follow the guidelines listed below, they will not be considered.

Entry Guidelines

The deadline to enter the 2018 SWCD Photo Contest is June 27, 2018. All entry forms and images must be received by June 27, 2018. Participants can enter as many as five photos total each year. Only amateur photographers are eligible to compete. An amateur photographer is one whose majority of income does not come from photography.

In order to be eligible for the contest, entries must follow the guidelines below:

1. Multiple submissions – If you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of five photos per participant), you must complete an entry form and photo release form for each photo. Any photo without its own entry form and release form will not be considered for the contest.
2. Photo Format – Photos must be submitted in electronic format (jpeg files only) to soil.water@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or delivered via disk or flash drive to the office. No printed photos will be accepted. Each photo must be named according to the photo file name guidelines below.
3. Photos must be taken in Hamilton County. Photos determined to be taken outside of Hamilton County, Indiana will be disqualified.
4. For the “Then and Now” category, the “Then” photo could have been taken by a second individual (relative, (parent/grandparent, friend of the family, etc.). If you send a “Then” image from one of those sources, please have the photographer provide written permission (utilizing our entry form), for the use of the image. If contest entrants cannot locate an appropriate “Then” photo for your submission from those sources, you may use other public means of locating images to reflect Conservation from years-gone-by - images which can be copied without requiring permission from the original photographer/entity.
5. Photo File Names – Photo files must be named and saved by photographer name, photo category, and photo number. If you are submitting only one photo in a category, your photo number is 1. Additional photos in the same category should be numbered consecutively. ***Digital file name MUST match file name listed on entry form.**

Name each photo file for entry as follows:

Last name, First name_category_photo #

Example: John Smith is submitting four photos- two in the Pollinator in color (P) category and two in the Then and Now (TN) category.

Smith, John_P_1, Smith, John_P_2, Smith, John_TN_1, Smith, John_TN_2

Be sure that the file name matches the name given on the entry/release forms.

Your photo file must be labeled as outlined above to be eligible. **TIP:** To rename or label a photo, right-click the photo and choose “Rename”.

Signed photo release should be emailed or sent through the postal service. It can be attached to the same email as the jpeg. The SWCD is not responsible for email or mail not reaching the provided address.

6. Digital Enhancements – Minor digital enhancements for cropping, red-eye removal, filters and corrective functions are permitted, but images that have been judged to be altered in any significant manner will be disqualified. Contestants are not permitted to place borders, frames or backgrounds around their images or to place watermarks, dates, signatures or copyright images onto photos.
7. Previously Published Photos – Do not send photo reproductions from a printed publication. Previously published photos are not eligible for the SWCD Photo Contest. **Only in the case of the “Then” photo can previously published photos be eligible. Please see #4 for more information.**

8. Photo Rights – All entries can be used by the SWCD, and the SWCD reserves the non-exclusive right to use all photographs in publications or for promotional purposes. The photographer retains rights to their photo for other uses. SWCD is not the exclusive owner.

Required Forms

Completed signed forms must be received for entry to be eligible for contest.

1. **Entry Form:** 2018 Photo Contest Entry & Release Form
Please Note: If you intend to enter more than one photo (maximum of five photos total per participant), you must complete an entry form and photo release form for each photo. Any photo without its own entry form and release form will not be considered for the contest.
2. **Model/Portrait Release:** Photographs that include recognizable people must include a signed Model Release Form before the photograph will be accepted into the photo contest and displayed. A parent or guardian must consent for people under 18 years old. The Model Release Form must accompany the Photo Entry Form. The Model/Portrait Release Form is available online on the photo contest webpage or in our office.

Judging Standards

Photos will be judged on technical merit and composition. For technical merit, judges may check to see if the photo is well-framed, properly exposed, and sharp and clear. For composition, the judges may determine if the photo features a recognizable center of interest, action, imagination and creativity.

SWCD Photo Contest Categories

1. Pollinators in Color 2. Then and Now

Before taking your photos or submitting them for the contest, please review the following detailed explanation of the photo categories. **Note that the examples given below are not exclusive but just ideas. If you have a question on which category applies for your photo please contact the SWCD at 317.773.2181.**

Pollinators in Color – The more colorful, the Better!

- Butterflies
- Moths
- Bats
- Bees
- Birds
- Beetles
- Animals or wind carrying pollen

Then and Now – Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation

- Two Images required: One image depicting older conservation practices or an area that did not have a conservation practice installed, or an image of conservation areas - woods, ponds, waterways, landscape, etc. that was newly installed, but has now matured. The “then” and “now” images do not need to be of the exact same location, but should illustrate the contrast between either no conservation practice or newly installed practice and the current photo illustrating the installed/matured conservation practice.
Examples:
 - Then: White River – river edge showing erosion / Now: Photo showing Erosion Control.
 - Then: land - poorly draining, turf grass, sloping yard that shows erosion / Now: rain garden, prairie grass, erosion control installation.

Judges reserve the right to determine if a photograph is appropriately categorized and change a photograph's category accordingly.