

Focus ²⁰²⁶ on *Nature*

Photo Contest and Exhibit



Photo: Patty Marshall
at Wildwood Park



The Friends of Wildwood are seeking original, amateur photographs taken within a Dauphin County Park for the Focus on Nature 2026 Photography Contest. Photos should reflect natural habitats including flora and fauna and convey the conservation values of all Dauphin County Parks.

About Friends of Wildwood

The Friends of Wildwood is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose goal is to preserve and support Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

This is accomplished by:

Supporting Dauphin County educational efforts

Providing educational and recreational opportunities for the general public

Promoting membership in an effort to increase funds to support the maintenance and enhancement of the park

explorewildwoodpark.org



2025 1st Place Winners

Takes Two to Make a Home
by Venkataram Venkatakrishnaiah
Experienced



Lunch Time! by Suzanne Smith
Beginner



Back to the Ice Age by Lydia Lubold-Skema
Youth



Friends of Wildwood

Contest Rules

ELIGIBILITY

- Photo MUST have been taken at one of the following Dauphin County Parks: Wildwood Park, Fort Hunter Park, Fort Hunter Conservancy, Detweiler Park, Wiconisco Creek Park, or Lykens Glen Park.
- Minor digital enhancement is permitted, but images that have been significantly modified or appear unnatural will be disqualified.
- Photos should reflect natural habitats including flora and fauna and convey the conservation values of all Dauphin County Parks.
- Photos that have previously been in the Photo Contest may not be submitted again.
- This competition is open only to amateur photographers.
- The Photo Committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the contest guidelines.

PREPARING PHOTOS

- Only two submissions per person will be accepted.
- Entries must be 8"x10" print size, mounted on a white 11"x14" backboard with a single white top mat. Adhesive hangers will be provided by Friends of Wildwood and attached to the backboard for exhibit hanging.
- Mats are available in the Nature Shop for purchase.
- No framed prints are permitted.
- No marks or names that can identify the photographer may be visible on the front of the photograph or mat.
- A completed photo contest entry form must be attached to the backboard of each photo.
- Entries will be accepted at the Nature Center November 1 through November 22, 2026. All entries are due November 22, 2026 by 3 p.m.

EXHIBIT

- Photos will be on display in the Olewine Nature Center from December 6, 2026, after the reception, through January 23, 2027.
- The public will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite photographs (People's Choice Awards). Winners will be notified in early February.

JUDGING AND AWARDS

- Judging will be conducted by a panel of professional photographers and will be based on composition, creativity, focus, and contrast.
- Cash prizes (\$100, \$75, \$50) will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners in each division at the awards reception on December 6, 2026, 1 p.m.

RETURNS

- Photos may be picked up at the Olewine Nature Center February 1 through March 1, 2027 (closed Mondays and holidays). Beyond March 1, 2027, any unclaimed photos may be donated for educational purposes.
- Winning entries will be retained for one year for display purposes and may be picked up beginning February 1, 2028.

OTHER

- The Friends of Wildwood and the Dauphin County Department of Parks and Recreation reserve the right to publish or display submitted photographs on our website and other venues.
- The Friends of Wildwood assumes no liability for any loss, damage, or injury of any kind to persons or property resulting from participation in the contest.

Entry Form

Complete this form for each entry. Attach it to the backboard of the photo, and deliver to:

Friends of Wildwood
100 Wildwood Way
Harrisburg, PA 17110

*Entries will be accepted starting November 1 through November 22, 2026.
All entries MUST be received by November 22, 2026 at 3 p.m.*

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Detach here

Photo Location:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildwood Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Detweiler Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Hunter Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Wiconisco Creek Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Hunter Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Lykens Glen Park |

Divisions:

- Youth (16 & younger)
- Beginner
- Experienced

Number of Entries:

- One
- Two

To be hung: Vertically ↑ Horizontally →

Print Title: _____
(required – limited to 25 characters)

By signing this form you certify that you are an amateur and the original photographer, that you have read and understand the Photo Contest information, and you agree to the terms outlined in this brochure.

Signature

Date