

Carriage Barn at Drake Farmstead Park

927 N. Drake Rd



Drake Farmstead Park History

In 2004, Oshtemo Township purchased the historic brick farmhouse on this site to save it from demolition. That same year, the Oshtemo Historical Society formed to help guide restoration of the farmhouse. Over the following decade, the Township acquired 26 acres of the original farm. In 2015, residents and Township officials envisioned the land and house becoming a place to take a walk, enjoy nature, and learn about the history of the Drake family and the surrounding area. The result is Drake Farmstead Park, which opened in 2021.

Though the land was farmed for centuries, many years of neglect allowed invasive trees, shrubs, and other plants to take over the land and farm buildings to deteriorate. Park volunteers are working to remove invasive plants and restore the native landscape. The old barns are long gone, but their foundations remain. Over time, they will be revealed to help us imagine the historic farmstead.









Drake Carriage Barn – Venue Details

Features

- Rectangular table and chairs setup
- Air conditioned and heated for year-round comfort
- Disabled amenities and full accessibility
- On-site parking available
- Restroom facilities
- Access to electricity
- Kitchenette

Capacity

Accommodates up to **80** guests.

Hours of Availability

Open for reservations 7 days a week, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Available for rent from April – October.

Not available for rent on Township holidays.

Drake Carriage Barn

Occupancy: **80**

Chairs: **80**

8' Rectangular tables: **10**

Microwave

Small Refrigerator

Sink

Entrance to Carriage Barn

Guests will enter and exit
through the front door of the
property.







Building Access

Guests will enter and exit through the front door of the property.



First Time Renters

Maintenance staff will meet renter at designated arrival and departure times for instructions and inspection.

Renters must remain on the premises the ENTIRE RENTAL PERIOD. 50% of security deposit will be forfeited if renter leaves prior to inspection.

Building Access

Guests will enter and exit
through the front door of the
property.



Repeat/Long Term Renters

To qualify, the renter must have received a full refund of the security deposit on all previous rentals. Renter would then be granted access to the building without Maintenance staff present.

24-48 hours before the rental date, the renter will receive a keypad entry code by email or text that will allow access during the rental period only.



Interior of the Carriage Barn

Oshtemo's newest rental venue is an authentic timber frame barn, fashioned of mortise and tenon joinery secured by wooden pegs. The framing was built with locally harvested timbers and constructed by local craftsmen.

It features exposed beams and trusses, beautifully finished walls and woodwork, ample windows, and a wide covered porch. Murals depicting the historic farm in the 1800's, created by local artist Conrad Kaufman, add charm to the unique space.







Carriage Barn Kitchenette

Includes sink, microwave
and mini refrigerator.









The Carriage Barn features two identical, unisex restrooms. Each includes a toilet, sink, and changing table.



Drake Farmstead Park Pavilion

The Pavilion offers a spacious covered shelter and 4 large picnic tables. This pavilion is first come, first serve. We do not take reservations for this pavilion.

Surrounded by green space, and just steps away from walking trails, the Pavilion offers comfort, and natural beauty for residents to enjoy.







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Drake Farmstead Prairie Walk

Did you know that hundreds of years ago southwest Michigan was on the very edge of the Great Plains?

The Plains were also called Prairies, and Drake Farmstead has one today!

Come walk through the tall grass prairie and learn about the unique adaptations of these prairie plants and how they drew the indigenous people and settlers to this area.





Historic Drake House

Dedicated to nature and history, Drake Farmstead Park is centered on the historic Drake House, former home of one the first families to settle in the Township.

It features a new timber frame carriage barn that can be reserved for events and programs, walking trails, interpretive signs on nature and history, a picnic shelter, and parking lot.

The park is open daily for hiking, picnicking, and enjoying nature. Tours of the historic house are available upon request by contacting the Oshtemo Historical Society.



Historic House Tours

Make your event extra special by treating your guests to a tour of the historic Drake House, located across the driveway from the Carriage Barn!

Tours are hosted by volunteers with the Oshtemo Historical Society. To schedule a tour, contact **Mary Anne Britvec at (269) 760-7059** or maryannebritvec0924@gmail.com.