

Drake Farmstead Park

Oshtemo Township's newest community park is now open for hiking, picnicking, and enjoying nature! With the historic Drake House as centerpiece, the park features a new timber frame carriage barn for public and private events, an accessible crushed stone trail, mowed walking trails through wooded areas, interpretive signs on nature and history, a picnic shelter, and parking lot. Two accessible restrooms are available at the east end of the carriage barn. The park is open daily from sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. See park map below for more information.

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 guide restoration of the farmhouse. In 2015, residents and Township officials envisioned the 26-acre property 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 May 2021.

Park future: Eventually, our farm park will have walking trails that wind through woodland, oak savanna, and prairie landscapes, a garden where you can learn to grow your own vegetables and fruits, historically-inspired flower beds, a gazebo for outdoor concerts and events, and a windmill.

Drake Farmstead Park Carriage Barn

Now available for private and public events! 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 late 1800's, created by local artist Conrad Kaufman, add charm to the unique space.

Building size and capacity:

- Multi-purpose room is approximately 29' x 30'
- Covered porch is 8' x 40'
- Capacity with tables and chairs: 64
- Capacity with chairs only: 80



Historic Drake House



Picnic shelter



Carriage barn



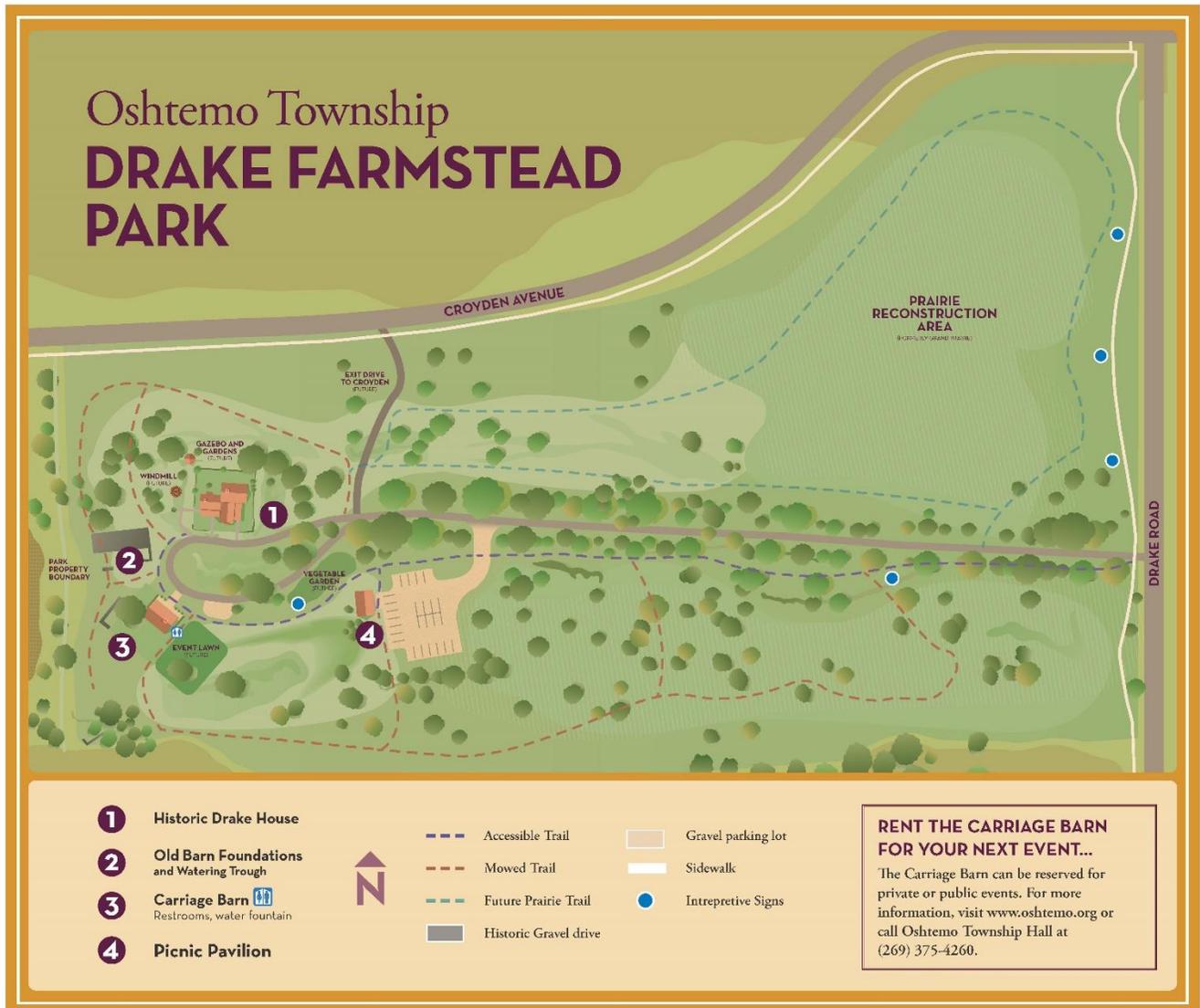
Carriage barn – interior view

Carriage barn features:

- Heat, air conditioning and electricity
- Double doors between the multi-purpose room and covered porch
- Two accessible unisex restrooms (restrooms are open to the public via separate entrance during park hours)
- 10 rectangular folding tables, 8' x 30"
- 80 black stackable chairs
- Concrete floor
- Gravel driveway offers convenient access to the barn for loading and unloading. Five pull-in parking spaces are located nearby.
- Gravel parking lot with 28 spaces is located approximately 500 feet from the carriage barn. Accessible crushed stone trail connects from parking lot to barn for pedestrian access.



Carriage barn set up for an event



RENT THE CARRIAGE BARN FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT...
 The Carriage Barn can be reserved for private or public events. For more information, visit www.oshtemo.org or call Oshtemo Township Hall at (269) 375-4260.