



Springfield Oaks County Park

Park: 12451 Andersonville Road, Davisburg
248-634-7899

Golf Course: 12450 Andersonville Road, Davisburg
248-634-2261



Park Information

Springfield Oaks is home to the historic Ellis Barn and annual Oakland County Fair. The Springfield Oaks Activity Center offers the Grand Hall and Carousel Hall for weddings, banquets, reunions and seminars.

On the grounds of Springfield Oaks are several animal barns, a pavilion and outdoor arenas. The park is alive with activity during the annual Oakland County Fair as 100,000 visitors delight in live animal and 4-H exhibits, including the Miracle of Life Barn.

Unpaved trails through woodlands on the southeast part of the park are open for hiking year-round as well as (ungroomed) cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter.

The 1884 Ellis Barn's 14,000 square feet features an indoor riding arena, box stalls, mechanical exercise ring and cavernous second floor for hay and straw. The Ellis Barn represents a significant period of Michigan's agricultural and transportation history and provides unique educational opportunities. Learn more about the Ellis Barn's history [here](http://tinyurl.com/yy7bz6s9). (tinyurl.com/yy7bz6s9) The barn was moved from its original location on Dixie Highway to Springfield Oaks in 2005. Today, it is a popular DIY wedding venue.

Across the street from the Activity Center and Ellis Barn lies Oakland County Parks and Recreation's first golf course. Springfield Oaks is a scenic 18-hole, par 71 course. The front nine is open and hilly, and the back nine is tighter, with more trees and water. Bunkers Bar & Grill offers space for outing luncheons as well grill room service for golfers. Springfield Oaks Golf Course is certified by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program for exceeding requirements to protect natural resources.

Natural Resources

- Springfield Oaks is part of the headwaters of the Shiawassee River Watershed. The Shiawassee River runs along the northern edge of the park.
- The streams, creeks and wetlands that run through the park help protect water quality on the property and in the Shiawassee River.
- The park was likely a combination of black oak barren and mixed conifer swamp prior to the 1800s.
- While most of the property is occupied by the golf course and fairgrounds, Springfield Oaks is also home to some of OCP's most interesting prairie fens, a wetland community that contains host plants for unique wildlife such as the federally endangered Poweshiek Skipperling. This butterfly is currently found downstream from Springfield Oaks.
- The oak-dominated forests at Springfield Oaks are largely in good condition but the fungal disease oak wilt has started to impact red oaks on the property. These trees are being actively managed to prevent spreading the fungus.
- Springfield Oaks contains a large population of little brown bats that occupy many of the buildings within the fairgrounds complex.

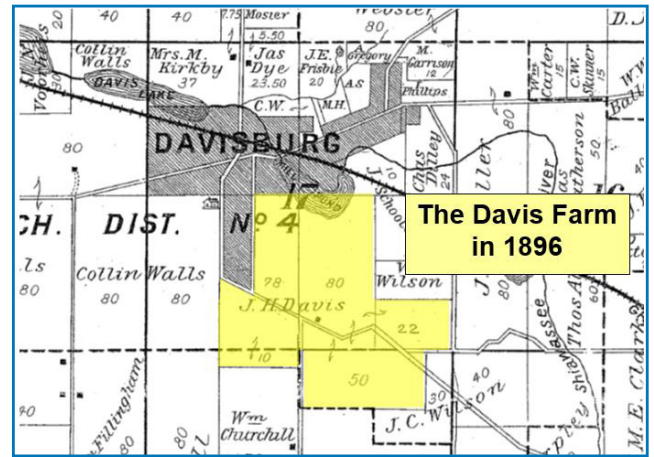


History

Cornelius Davis, the founder of Davisburg, purchased 720 acres of land in Springfield Township in the 1830s. Cornelius had two sons, John and James. Part of Cornelius' land became the farm of his son, James. James developed the land into a very successful farm which specialized in Galloway cattle. The farm stayed in the Davis family into the 1920s and eventually became a large part of Springfield Oaks.



The James H. Davis House, 1920



A large part of Springfield Oaks County Park is located on what had been the James H. Davis farm. At one time it included two barns, pig pens, poultry houses, a grainery, tool sheds and a buggy shed. Today only the house remains.

The Davis house, located next to the Springfield Oaks Golf Course, was most likely built by William Chestnut in the 1870s. His neighbor, James H. Davis who lived just to the west, purchased the house in 1883. He and his wife Isabelle lived in the house for the rest of their lives. Many family artifacts can be found inside as well as those of several other Springfield residents.



Davis House interior



Springfield is home to the historic Ellis Barn. The original barn was built in 1884 on Dixie Highway. Its design was known as a Madawaska Twin and featured crown molding, gingerbread details, elegant dormers and two huge gable roofs facing the road. Mr. Norman Ellis had commissioned the barn from a Maine barn wright to accommodate the storage of loose hay and straw to support his growing business of buying and selling livestock. It was also home to Ingomar, his prize-winning Percheron stallion. In 2005, the Ellis Barn was disassembled, moved and reassembled at Springfield Oaks by barn wrights from Indiana. The barn opened to the public in 2007.

The original Springfield Oaks property, equaling 170 acres, was donated to Oakland County in 1926 by Manley Davis. He was the son of John Davis and great-grandson of Cornelius Davis, the founder of Davisburg. Over the years additional land was purchased, and today Springfield Oaks encompasses 322 acres, with the golf course comprising 169 acres.