



Gorman Heritage Farm

Walking Tour

Gorman Heritage Farm is a 122-acre nonprofit, working farm with a mission to educate about agriculture, nutrition, sustainability, and the environment. The Farm consists of 30 tillable acres, a barnyard with a variety of animals, several gardens, 40 acres of wooded hillside, 5 miles of hiking trails, and a natural pond. We encourage visits from members, guests, school groups, scouts, families, corporate groups, civic groups, and more. In recognition of the outstanding examples of local architecture, agricultural development and family farming, Gorman Heritage Farm was named to the National Register of Historic Places in August of 2012.

Gardens/Education Area

James A. Gorman Interpretive Building

Constructed in 1996 by the Village of Evendale, this building contains an exhibit area, farm and gift shop, restroom facilities, office space, a multipurpose auditorium and back porch. It is used as a welcome center, teaching and meeting space, staff offices, and a visitor and volunteer area.

Flower Cutting Garden

Our flower cutting garden offers many varieties of flowers through three seasons. The colors, scents and textures of our cutting garden vary just as the pale blues of the spring sky develop into the rich azure of the summer and on into the crisp clear jeweled sky of autumn. You can choose to buy per stem at .50 cents per stem (\$1.00 for sunflowers), or purchase a cutting garden subscription.

Children's Garden

Our children's garden invites young visitors to see, touch, taste, smell and hear what happens in our gardens. In addition to our sensory beds, volunteers create beds that add floral beauty, showcase vegetables from other nations, attract native birds and pollinators. The chicken and rabbit house showcases education animals which are used for on-site and farm-to-school programs.

Rental Garden

Our rental garden consists of separate plots which are rented out on a seasonal basis. This is a great resource if you don't have the ability to grow produce where you live. Not only are you growing food in a beautiful location, but you will be among fellow growers as well. Check in with the head gardener in January to see if there are available plots for the upcoming season!

Trosset Wildflower Sanctuary

The sanctuary provides a place for respite, observation and education while supporting local native plants. A valuable collection of native wildflowers, a gift of the Trosset family, forms the foundation of the sanctuary. A living tree or shrub or a metal bench can be purchased as a loving tribute for special persons' anniversaries, birthdays, retirements, birth of a grandchild, in memory of, or any other occasion.

Bees

The bee hives are a volunteer led program. Our hives are located near the orchard and gardens to provide necessary pollination. Bee production is also used as a part of education programs and honey is harvested twice a year.

Orchard

The orchard was installed in 2000 with twenty apple trees. It is located approximately where an earlier orchard was established by Isabella Gorman. Cherry trees were added in 2002. In 2018, the permaculture-designed, sustainable orchard includes hardy dwarf fruit and nut trees and swales for water collection. Grouped companion plants surround the fruit and nut trees to create an understory, attract pollinators and repel insect pests.

Market Garden

Our market garden is the epicenter of our produce operation. This is where you come to see how vegetables are grown using organic and biodynamic practices. It's one and a half acre size provides produce for CSA shares and produce sold in our Farm Shop. We also have a hoop house that is utilized for growing greens for harvest through the winter months and tomatoes in the summer. Our perennial areas include: three asparagus beds, currants, and fig trees. You will most likely see our gardeners and volunteers working the land when you visit. Stop by and see what they're doing as they'd like to share what they know because that's why we are here!

Lower Spring House (1825)

The Spring House is located by the creek on the way to the farmyard. The 1835 stone and shake roof structure was built to contain water from the spring and for food preservation; this structure was restored in 1998.

Continue along the path to the right and up the small hill toward the Bank Barn to the Farmyard.

GORMAN HERITAGE FARM

Farmyard Area

The farmyard is located just a short walk along the paved pathway on top of the hill. There are several farm buildings to look for during your walk. You will see a variety of animals, all cared for by our farmyard staff and volunteers. All of our animals are used for educational purposes during school field trips and summer camps. Some of our animals are raised for their meat in honor of Jim and Dorothy's vision to see the farm remain a working farm.

Bank Barn (1835) The original barn is of white oak with a shake roof, c. 1835. An addition was added in the late 19th century using materials from a dismantled covered bridge in Lockland. The foundations are constructed of local limestone blocks. The lower level is used as shelter for livestock. Please feel free to go into the lower bank barn to see if there are any animals in the barn.

Fun Fact: Notice the 42 ft long single-piece "summer" beam running the center length of the barn.

Gorman Residence - Private (1835) The original house, built from stone quarried on the property, has walls approximately 30" thick! There were four rooms upstairs and two rooms downstairs. A little later the kitchen was added. In 1918 the stone was stuccoed. The modern bathroom was added in 1948. Prior to that the family used an outhouse.

Rabbit House (1830) Now used as the Farm Office (2019) Jim Gorman's rabbits were once housed in this building. He started raising rabbits in 1926 and eventually had about 800. He sold them to a variety of customers for research, a dog track and local folks would buy them to eat. Jim also bought young rabbits from local growers and resold them for a profit of eight cents each to Kroger to earn enough to buy his first tractor.

Alfalfa Barn (1911) The alfalfa barn was built by Pete Gorman (father of Jim and Dorothy) to store alfalfa hay. This structure is used for hay and machinery storage with a rear lean-to for animal shelter. There is an observation platform. Feel free to pet, but please don't feed! Take a look inside the Alfalfa Barn to see our equines: Ringo, Jim and George, and Star and Sassy.

Chicken House (1923) The outside of the chicken house has been restored to what it was in the Depression era when it was first built. The house has three large indoor pens for shelter and for viewing laying hens. During certain times of the year, the small area to the right of the hens serves as a brooding area for chicks. We currently use the Golden Comet breed for laying hens.

Fun Fact: The original metal bars on the windows were installed in the 30's during the Depression to keep out "chicken thieves."

Goats - Meet our friendly resident goats **Amelia** and her son **Coppertone**.

Fun Fact: Goats originated out of Southwest Asia and Eastern Europe and were the first animals domesticated over 12,000 years ago. There are over 300 distinctive breeds.

Sheep - Look for our friendly herd of Katahdin sheep. The Katahdin breed was developed in the 1950's by farmers looking to raise sheep for meat without having to also manage wool production. Katahdin sheep have hair instead of wool, so they do not require an annual shearing. Our sheep are kept as education animals and are very friendly toward people of all ages.

Miniatures- Louie is one of our miniature horses. He is a companion to Stormy. **Stormy** is our miniature donkey born in 1991. Stormy's favorite time of the day is feeding time. If you are in the farmyard, you will know that time by Stormy's loud bray. We also have two miniature horses that live in the Alfalfa Barn. Their names are **Sassy** and **Star**. **Star** has a big white spot on her forehead while **Sassy** has a white stripe down her nose. Be sure to look for **Eddie** who is a miniature Zebu steer. Look for the hump on Eddie's back.

Rabbits - We have rabbits in our farmyard and in our Education Run. Moose, a Flemish Giant and New Zealand mix, and Clover, a Dutch, live up in the Farmyard. Pickles, a Holland Lop, and Leonard, a Rex, live in the Education Run. These Rabbits are not your typical house pets. In the 1930's Jim Gorman raised hundreds of the New Zealand variety to sell for meat.

Fun Fact: Jim Gorman purchased the farm's first motorized tractor in 1938 with the money he saved from selling rabbits.

Pony - Ringo is our handsome Haflinger pony. Haflingers are a breed of draft horse and a pony refers to a smaller-sized horse.

Fun Fact: In its native Austria, the Haflinger is sometimes referred to as a "prince in the front, a peasant behind" due to the size of its muscular hindquarters.

Mules- John and **Tom** are our mule team. They are Belgian mules. Their mother was a Belgian Horse and their father was a Mammoth Jack Donkey! Tom is 11 years old and John is 10 years old.

Fun Fact: A mule is the result of the mating of a male donkey (jack) and a female horse (mare) to produce a hybrid. Mules are sterile due to an uneven chromosome count.

Cat- Matilda is our barn cat who lives in the Alfalfa Barn. Her job on the farm is to catch mice. Matilda chose us when she wandered onto our Farm one day, and she has stayed with us the last two years!

Chickens- We have several chickens on our Farm, and they all have different jobs. We have Education chickens who live in the Children's Garden next to the rabbits. You may also see **Lucy** and **Sunny**, our ambassador hens, who run around our gardens looking for bugs. Up in the farmyard we have our layer hens as well as a few free-range chickens that walk around.

Other Animals You may see other animals in the Farmyard. We are still a working farm that raises certain animals for meat. During certain seasons, you may find broiler chickens, pigs, cows, or turkeys.

Gorman Heritage Farm

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are vital at Gorman Heritage Farm. We need your help! In return we will provide you with ways to find personal fulfillment, creative outlets and the opportunity to serve your community, all in a fun healthy environment. Anyone can volunteer at Gorman Heritage Farm, because there is something here for everyone!

Volunteering at the Farm can be a very rewarding experience. There is so much to learn on the farm and many opportunities to grow. We offer educational and social opportunities to other volunteers and friends. We ask that children under the age of 16 be accompanied by an adult when volunteering.

Garden Volunteer - Come join our gardeners working in our Market (Community Supported Agriculture), Children's, Herb and Flower Gardens. Spuds and Garlic Field, Hoophouse (greenhouse), Germination Station, and Orchard.

Front Desk Volunteer- Greet our Visitors, answer the telephone and sell our merchandise in our farm store. It is an important and fun volunteer position. Front desk volunteers work a half day each Monday - Saturday

Wednesday Evening Gardening Group Volunteer- Wednesday evening,, a group of gardening volunteers gather at the farm to take care of our front entrance, woodland and rain gardens from April until November. Enjoy the therapeutic quiet and work with other like minded volunteers.

Beekeepers- Join our beekeepers who meet weekly on Wednesday afternoons to maintain the health of our hives. They love to share their knowledge with hardworking volunteers who want to learn about this interesting hobby and welcome beekeepers of all levels.

Quilters - On Wednesday evenings quilters gather in the Interpretive Center from 5:00 to 7:00 to work on their own fabric art and then work together for several months to create a gorgeous common quilt that is raffled off in the fall.

Education Volunteer- Lead small groups of school children from station to station in the gardens and farmyard. Training is provided for these structured highly organized field trips.

FarmCorps Tour Guide - Help lead groups around the farm during these summer tours. Training is provided though you can share your own experiences and joy of the area.

Farmyard Volunteer and Feeder- Care for our farm animals includes: sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, turkeys, rabbits, cows, and equine. Assist with the general maintenance of our farmyard and the feeding and care of our sweet farm animals.

Harness Club Volunteer - Care for our mule and miniature horse teams and take them to various developmentally disabled centers and residences throughout the year. Participate in parades and other fundraising activities to assist in the funding of these gentle animals.

Event Volunteer - We have several fundraisers throughout the year and are always looking for assistance with set-up, admissions, activities and cleanup. During our Sunflower Festival where we expect over 5,000 guests each day. You can help them cut their own sunflowers, takeHayrides and enjoy our animals in the farmyard or the entertainment and vendors in the Pavilion.

Company Group Volunteers- Are you a company in the Cincinnati area searching for your next volunteer or team-building event? Look no further than Gorman Heritage Farm! We cultivate an informed involved community dedicated to Building Healthy Futures, and we offer two different ways to give back.

Please stop by or call us at 513-563-6663 or look online at gormanfarm.org