

# Glenview Park District Hires New Wagner Farm Director

By [Tom Robb](#) | on November 16, 2018



Jonathan Kuester. (Photo submitted)

Jonathan Kuester, named by the Glenview Park District as director of Wagner Farm, is only the second director the farm has had since the park district bought the facility 18 years ago.

Kuester's most recent work was as farm operations coordinator for the Schaumburg Park District's Volkening Heritage Farm. He also worked at three other historic farms in the Midwest and Southeast.

Earning an annual salary of \$80,000, Kuester first day in his post at Wagner Farm is Monday, Nov. 19. He replaces long time Director Todd Price who was promoted to Glenview Park District superintendent of leisure services in September after serving as farm director for 17 years. Part of Price's responsibilities is to oversee Wagner Farm.

Like Price, Kuester grew up working on a farm in Central Indiana. He began working as a paid historical interpreter at the age of 16. "I've never not worked at a museum since then," he said.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to work at a place that is already so familiar to me. I've been to Wagner a number of times because it's the closest living history site to Schaumburg," Kuester said in a written statement. "On a farm, you treat your neighbors like family. Volkening and Wagner have been like that, allowing each other to borrow equipment and things. Volkening is an 1880s farm as opposed to Wagner's 1920s farm, but they are roughly the same size and have the same kind of visitors."

Price said: "Jonathan Kuester stood out as the most qualified candidate whose experiences in agriculture and education most lined up with the leadership needs of the farm as we look to the future." The park district reviewed 56 applicants for the Wagner Farm position.

Wagner Farm program manager Sarah Schoeneberg filled in as interim director after Price was promoted.

When Price became farm director in 2001, attendance at Wagner totalled 2,860. Park district officials said annual visits to the farm now total about 130,000.