What are we improving?
We’re adding a hands-on farm adventure area to promote agricultural education and adding new paths and walkways to support foot traffic.

Why are we doing it?
We serve over 140,000 annual visitors, including school groups and residents. These improvements will both help accommodate increasing numbers of guests and provide new opportunities to learn.

When will it be done?
Construction will begin in November, with the bulk of the work done during Spring 2020 to set us up for an early summer 2020 opening. In the meantime, the rest of Wagner Farm will still be open as usual.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Upgrades to Historic Wagner Farm, thanks to community feedback

GLENVIEW, Ill., Sept. 17 – A tractor tire sandbox, a climbable corn stalk and a kid-sized farm stand will soon transport Historic Wagner Farm’s youngest visitors into life on the farm where they can play and explore. Construction of this dynamic playscape area is part of the first phase of master plan improvements at the farm.

The playscape is a unique hybrid between a traditional playground and an interactive agricultural education exhibit. Phase one also includes the installation of additional pathways and sidewalks allowing access to more areas around the farm, new orientation signage, new trees and planting areas and active use areas for bags and horseshoes courts.

The idea came out of community feedback given to the farm as the Glenview Park District looked at setting goals for the next five years.

“The play equipment is farm-themed and allows kids to interact with a rural environment, not just look at it. Kids can get into the sandbox, swing on a tire, climb into a corn crib, interact with a life-size dairy cow sculpture and pretend to run a farm stand,” said Jonathan Kuester, Historic Wagner Farm director.

The farm currently serves over 140,000 annual visitors, including school groups and residents. These improvements will help accommodate increasing numbers of guests and provide new opportunities to learn, according to Kuester.

The new playscape will be located just west of the Heritage Center. Visitors can follow a paved walkway from the Heritage Center to a circular hub that intersects with a path to the playscape and other areas of the farm.

The concept has created a lot of excitement, not only with staff, but also with participants in community input meetings.

While the playscape may be for the kids, the adjacent gardens will be for everyone with ADA-accessible, raised garden beds, checkerboard game tables and educational signs with agriculture-related facts.
Construction and materials are expected to cost a total of $900,000, with more than half of the funding provided by state and private sources, including a $400,000 Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant awarded to the farm in spring 2019, and $100,000 from the Friends of Wagner Farm. The additional $400,000 will come from the park district’s Capital Improvement Fund.

Site preparation and initial construction is expected to begin before the first of the year with major completion in late summer 2020.

Phase two will see the addition of gravel pathways to move livestock and equipment, improved signage at Lake Avenue and replacement of the 20-year-old fences surrounding the property.

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About the Glenview Park District
The Glenview Park District serves over 50,000 residents including all of Glenview and Golf, small portions of Niles, Northbrook, Northfield and Skokie, and unincorporated areas beyond the village limits. The District owns, maintains and operates more than 845 acres. Connect with us at www.glenviewparks.org.

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About Wagner Farm
The Glenview Park District’s 18.6 acre Wagner Farm, located at 1510 Wagner Rd., is one of the last working dairy farms in Cook County and is open to the public for recreation and learning. The farm provides a unique opportunity for families to learn about our farming heritage and experience first hand “the way things used to be.” For more information visit glenviewparks.org/Wagner-Farm/Wagner-Farm.htm or call (847) 657-1506.