

I'm very excited to be stepping into the role of Grove Director after so many years at this remarkable facility! The Grove is near and dear to me and has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

I grew up in Glenview and can recall visiting The Grove as a child, even before it was saved. One of my earliest memories was riding in the back of my dad's pickup truck with my sister, while being chased by a flock of wild turkeys. Even then, I knew The Grove was a unique place! I watched as the "Save The Grove" campaign led to an overwhelmingly successful referendum allowing the Glenview Park District to purchase The Grove. I attended special events such as Grove Folk Fest, Civil War Days and Craft Faire. I even brought an injured pigeon to the Interpretive Center for first aid. Then, in 1995, I enrolled as an animal care volunteer and ended up on the payroll in various part-time program positions. From there I went on to a role as Program Coordinator and then to full-time positions as Naturalist in 1997 and Assistant Director in 2003.

I learned a lot about all aspects of operations at The Grove, working side by side with Steve Swanson as his assistant for the last fourteen years. I believe this transition will be a smooth one for all of us. There are many new ideas I'm eager to implement but I share the same broad goals: to protect The Grove's environmental and historical resources, and to provide fun and educational experiences to our visitors. Steve has created a rich legacy at The Grove and I'm truly honored to be at the helm for the next chapter!

Lorin Ottlinger
Grove Director