

**Dave Zenk Bio:**

Dave Zenk is Executive Director of Metroparks Toledo, a national Gold Medal recipient (2020) for best large park system in America. He is a dynamic and accomplished professional with more than 20 years of demonstrated performance in the parks and recreation field and years of experience in the private sector as a business owner. As a visionary and skillful project manager, he is passionate about leadership, quality service delivery and developing powerful strategies to change a region.

At Metroparks Toledo, Dave is directly responsible for more than \$100 million in total assets, 300+ employees and an \$80 million annual budget. He oversaw the development of the agency's comprehensive plan, and secured more than \$70 million in grants which helped fund a major expansion of the park district. As a result, Metroparks completed a goal of placing a park within five miles of every residence in Lucas County.

During Dave's tenure as deputy director then executive director, Metroparks grew from 9 to 19 parks in the span of eight years, adding the first new Metropark in four decades. In that time, the park system has introduced new programs, including outdoor skills instruction, kayak launches, tree climbing, a single-track trail for mountain bikes, the country's first public tree house village and the first ice skating trail in Ohio. This growth has been acknowledged with over 60 state and national awards, making Metroparks the fastest growing and most recognized park agency in the country.

Glass City Riverwalk, a \$300 million, 10-year transformation of the downtown Toledo riverfront, is 50% completed, and upgrades are underway across the park system.

Dave holds a Master's of Public Administration degree specializing in organizational development from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University. He is a 20 under 40 awardee, serves on the Ohio Wildlife Council and Mercy Health Board of Directors, is a founding member of the Toledo Regional Equity and Inclusion Council, and is a member of numerous other community boards and committees. He was one of four individual recipients of the 2025 Phoenix Awards at the National Brownfields Training Conference.

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