

# HALL ♦ OF ♦ FAME



**Frances Burdick  
Kannowski**

## **Frances Burdick Kannowski**

**GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT  
2001**

Frances Burdick Kannowski was the eighth individual inducted to the NDRPA Hall of Fame. In 1933, she became the first woman in the United States to hold the position of superintendent of parks. She was appointed to the post after her husband, the previous superintendent, died. She served as superintendent until 1953.

During her term as superintendent, she established the first parks and recreation department and the first forestry department in North Dakota. Burdick Kannowski is also credited with creating the state's first youth ice hockey program. Under her supervision, Grand Forks parks were recognized regionally for the beauty of their flower gardens.

Burdick Kannowski also served as the chair of the horticulture committee of the American Institute of Park Executives. At various times, she served as president of the National Shade Tree Conference, North Dakota Horticultural Society, and North Dakota Peony Society.

Burdick Kannowski received many awards, including Grand Forks Woman of the Year (1952), the Alexander Griggs Award from the City of Grand Forks (1987), and the Sioux Award from the University of North Dakota Alumni Association (1995). She was named an honorary life member at the Mid-Continent Park and Recreation Conference (1954) and an honorary member of the American Peony Society (1955). In 1983, she was elected to the North Dakota Hockey Hall of Fame. The same year, Grand Forks Park Board debuted Kannowski Park in honor of Frances and her husband, Max.

In 1994, the Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce planted a tree on the Chamber grounds in her honor. Burdick Kannowski died in 2004, leaving behind her legacy as a pioneer in the field of parks and recreation.

*All NDRPA Hall of Fame members are recognized with plaques  
at the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame in the Jamestown Civic Center.*

**Advancing parks and recreation for an enhanced quality of life in North Dakota.**

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