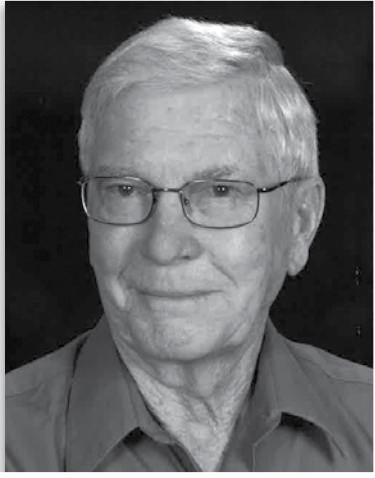


HALL OF FAME



Dick Leker

Dick Leker

GRAND FORKS PARK DISTRICT

1997

Dick Leker of Grand Forks was the fifth individual elected to the NDRPA Hall of Fame.

Leker graduated with a bachelor's degree from Baker University in 1956 and received his master's degree in 1958 from Emporia State University. He began his career as the superintendent of recreation in Atchison, Kansas. He then moved to Durango, Colorado, where he served as the director of parks and recreation. He served eight years as the superintendent of recreation in Lincoln, Nebraska, before moving to Grand Forks in 1978 to become the director of parks and recreation, a position he held until retirement.

During his time in Grand Forks, Leker built the first tennis center in North Dakota and built what was considered the largest water park in the state at the time. He was also involved with the development of Eagles Arena, Ulland Park, a 16-field softball complex, and the Red River Gymnastics Center.

Leker became a member of NDRPA in 1978 and he served as president twice, from 1981-1982 and 1990-1991. He was also involved in various committees and served on the organization's board of directors. Leker was instrumental in developing the association's bylaws and constitution, supporting state legislation, and launching *FOCUS*.

Involvement in the community was important to Leker, who was active in the Lions and Elks Clubs, Curling Club, and the American Legion.

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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