

# HALL OF FAME



**Roger Jensen**

## **Roger Jensen** **WAHPETON PARK BOARD** **2012**

Roger Jensen was the 18th individual elected to the NDRPA Hall of Fame, receiving the award at Hughes Shelter, one of the many buildings he designed in the Wahpeton park system.

Jensen was a park board commissioner and NDRPA member for 18 years. He received an architecture degree from the University of South Dakota and spent most of his career teaching architectural drafting at the North Dakota State College of Science.

He is considered by many as the designer of Chahinkapa Park, and his design projects include Chahinkapa Zoo, Prairie Rose Chapel, Rodger Ehnstrom Nature Center, and the Prairie Rose Carousel.

Jensen led the efforts to renovate Chahinkapa Zoo into a nationally-accredited zoo. Starting with Jaycee "White Elephant Sales," he then formed a renovation committee to completely rebuild the zoo after a series of disastrous floods, overseeing its transformation into a tourist attraction for 50,000 visitors annually.

He is also known for his vision to turn "old" buildings into restored treasures. The Street Department store was transformed into a nature center, a church scheduled for the wrecking ball became a beautiful stained-glass chapel, and a vacated downtown building was repurposed into an art gallery.

Jensen's awards include North Dakota Outstanding Jaycee (1971), Greater North Dakota Association Leadership Award (1984), Wahpeton Citizen of the Year (1989), North Dakota State College of Science Achievement Award (1996), and NDRPA Individual Citation Award (2003). He has also been a highly successful bowler and trap shooter and is an avid outdoorsman, designing accessible shoreline fishing platforms along the Red River.

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

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