

# HALL ♦ OF ♦ FAME



**Doug Eiken**

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### **NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2003**

Doug Eiken was the 10th individual elected to the NDRPA Hall of Fame. Eiken began his career as the assistant recreation director in Rugby. He joined NDRPA in 1972 and served on the legislative committee for several years. He left the state in 1978 to become the recreation coordinator at the University of Kansas before returning as director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) from 1981 to 1994.

During his time with the NDPRD, he created a strong partnership between the department, local parks and recreation agencies, and other local, county, state, and federal agencies throughout North Dakota. He was instrumental in the formation of the North Dakota Prairie Rose State Games. He was passionate about creating foundations for state parks, promoting professional certifications, running successful fundraising campaigns, and designing visionary recreation plans for the Missouri River system.

Eiken earned bachelor's degrees in math and physical education from Mayville State University in 1964 and master's degrees in physical education and health from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 1968. He received a doctorate in leisure studies from the University of Utah in 1978.

He has received leadership awards from several organizations, including the Greater North Dakota Chamber, North Dakota Governor's Office, Nature Conservancy, National State Parks Association, Missouri Recreation and Parks Association, and U.S. Department of the Interior.

He passed away in 2026.

*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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