

Plan for the Plaza, drawn by Edward Buehler Delk, 1922. SHSMO-KC.



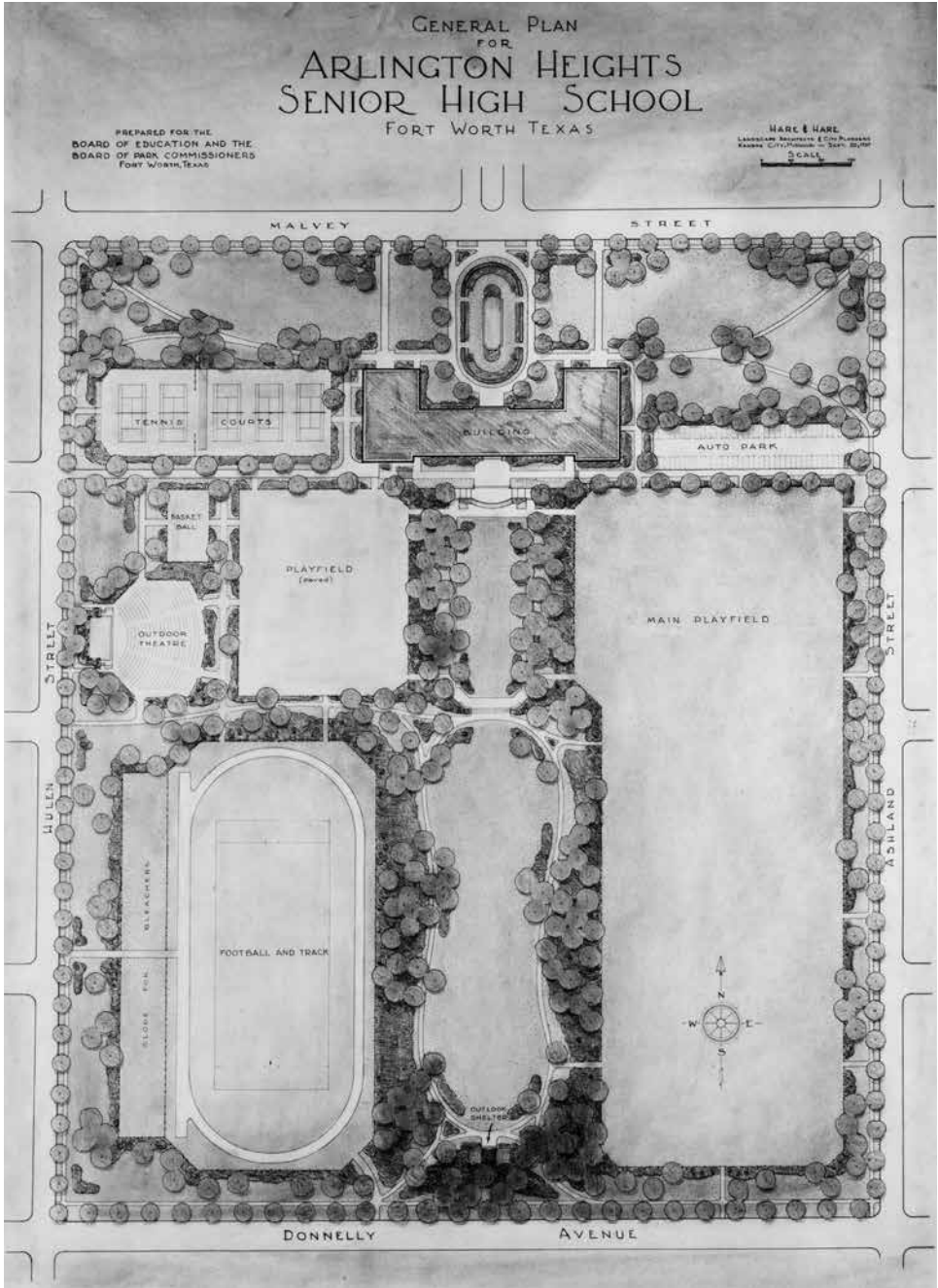
Wilbur Dunn, director of Kansas City Parks, at Brush Creek near Country Club Plaza, 1932. MVSC.

ting-edge and traditional, “the Plaza” was designed to attract an automobile clientele from across the region with architecture inspired by Spanish Colonial Revival models.<sup>44</sup> In keeping with the adjacent neighborhoods of the Country Club District, its blocks were ornamented with a particularly rich collection of fountains and sculpture. Herbert’s input is evident in the plan, which retained the scale and ambience of a small-town commercial center.<sup>45</sup> Among the firm’s many drawings are traffic patterns and road



Fountain at 47th Street and J. C. Nichols Parkway, Country Club Plaza, c. 1970. MVSC.

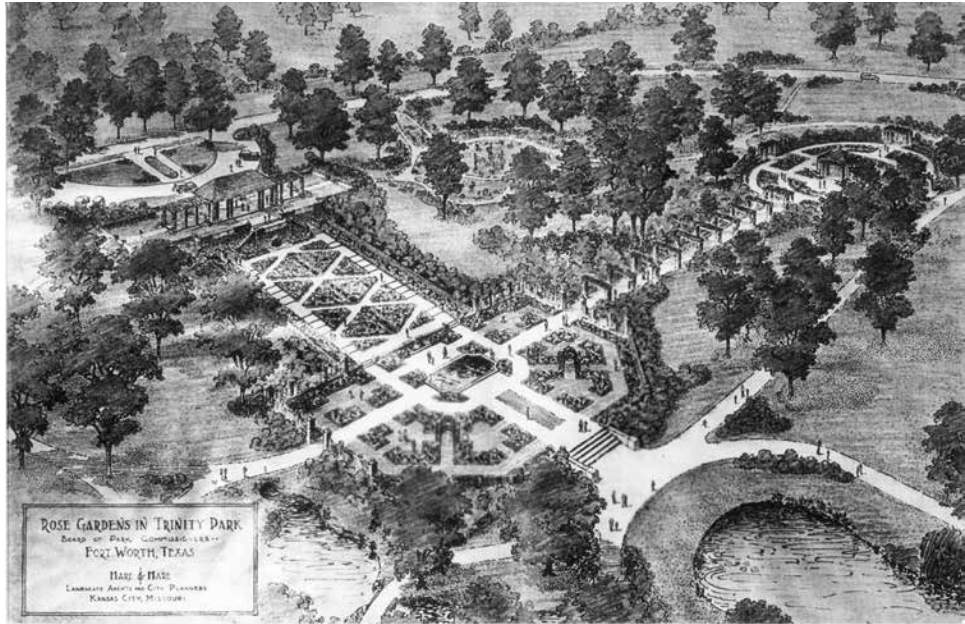
& Hare.<sup>6</sup> Another long-term project on which the firm partnered with the park department was a public school grounds development program which improved fifty-four schools over a twenty-year period. In some instances the program simply “corrected deficiencies” by improving landscaping and



Plan for Arlington Heights Senior High School, from the Fort Worth public school grounds improvement project, 1937. SHSMO-KC.

providing terraces and water fountains. In others, as at Arlington Heights High School (1936), Hare & Hare designed a parklike campus with a reflecting pool, informal walks, and wooded areas surrounding ball fields and sports facilities. The firm’s lovely drawing of the school grounds appears to be the work of D. D. Obert, who would later become Fort Worth’s second city forester in 1939.<sup>7</sup>

The Municipal Rose Garden (located in the city’s Botanic Garden) resulted from the successful give-and-take of Herbert, the Tarrant County



“Rose Gardens in Trinity Park, Fort Worth,” 1933. City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth Botanic Garden.



Relief workers at the Rose Garden, 1933. City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth Botanic Garden.



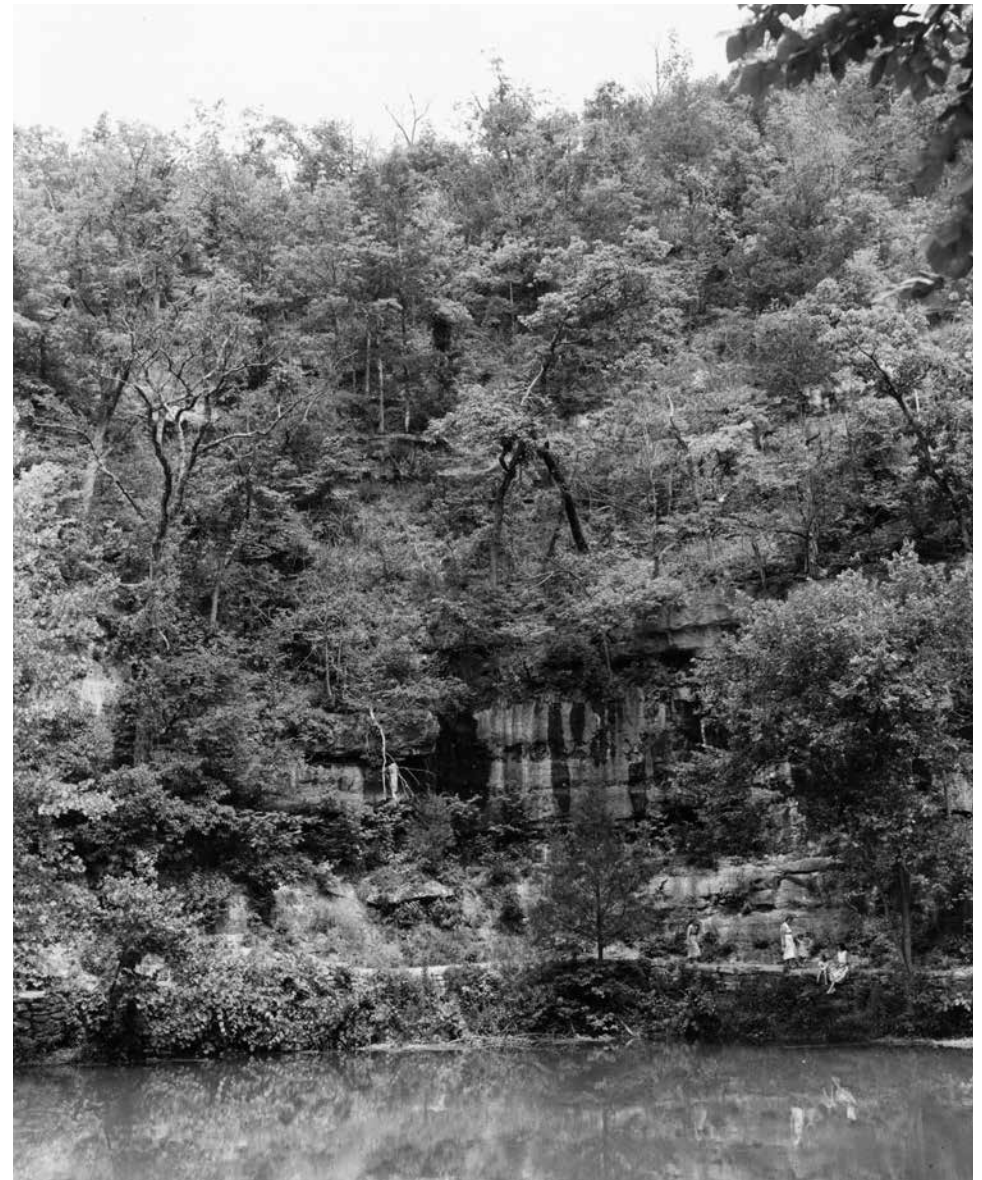
other types of pollution. The report's suggestion to include a group of state parks—Alley Spring, Big Spring, and Round Spring—in a system of “National Monuments” anticipates their ultimate inclusion in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.<sup>27</sup> Hare and Bartholomew's prescient recommendation to protect recreational streams became a reality in 1964 when the Current River and the Jacks Fork River became the first federally protected natural, free-flowing streams in the nation (and the model for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968).<sup>28</sup> The recreational value of national



Boating on Big Spring in the Missouri Ozarks. Photo by Hadley K. Irwin, c. 1965. MDNR.

forests—wilderness areas—as a supplement to the expanding state park system (of which three million acres were in the process of being purchased) was also emphasized.

Hare and Bartholomew also laid out the rationale for a statewide parkway system, the beginnings of which had been conceived in their earlier Lake of the Ozarks plan. With increased use of the automobile, additional highways were needed, but the issue was more than a matter of transportation; “pleasure driving” was considered a recreation in its own right.



Walking the trail along Alley Spring. Photo by Robert E. Brown, c. 1950. MDNR.

Although nature did speak in terms of planning, not all decisions were based on instinct. One can imagine Bush's gentle suggestions for locating walks and terraces, and his proposing where a vista cut through the woods could frame another view. Detailed plans were prepared by the firm for an experimental rose garden of traditional design (a strikingly modern pool and fountain, never executed, was proposed to accompany it). Its double staircase plan, a contemporary variation of the Italian water chains that Herbert loved, illustrates how the steps should be canted at an angle, "just



Waterfall at Hodges Gardens, c. 1970. State Library of Louisiana.

so," in relationship to the lake. Throughout the garden, pools drip, rock-lined rills curl through the woods, and waterfalls spill over ledges—all fed by a reservoir recycling water from the lake.

The Shreveport firm of Walker & Walker designed the garden's visitor center/gift shop (as well as the couple's residence on the lake's "House Island"). Architecturally these, and the Lookout Tower, are examples of midcentury modern design, a surprising choice for a "garden in the forest" and one that distinguishes it from its peers.<sup>51</sup> The end result is an arrangement of formal features within a naturalistic landscape: piney woods as the backdrop for the brilliant color of azaleas or camellias and the apricot scent of sweet olive (*Osmanthus fragrans*).

Although Hodges Gardens opened to the public in 1957, while it was still incomplete, the formal dedication took place three years later. On the first day of May, a group of family, friends, and employees gathered at a patch of land once left bare from clear-cutting. Among those introduced to the crowd were C. B. Byrd, construction supervisor at the site, T. E. Campbell, the garden's director of forestry research and wildlife management, and Walter Chalupnik, the horticulturalist in charge of the greenhouse and propagation. Federation of Garden Clubs presidents from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana were in attendance, as was Donald Bush.<sup>52</sup>



Drifts of azaleas in pine forest at Hodges Gardens. Photo by Debbie Smith, 2010. National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.



ipated in the organization's fiftieth annual meeting (of which he was designated an honorary member of its planning committee) at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., and attended the fortieth anniversary celebration of his Harvard class. That June marked Hare & Hare's fortieth year in business.

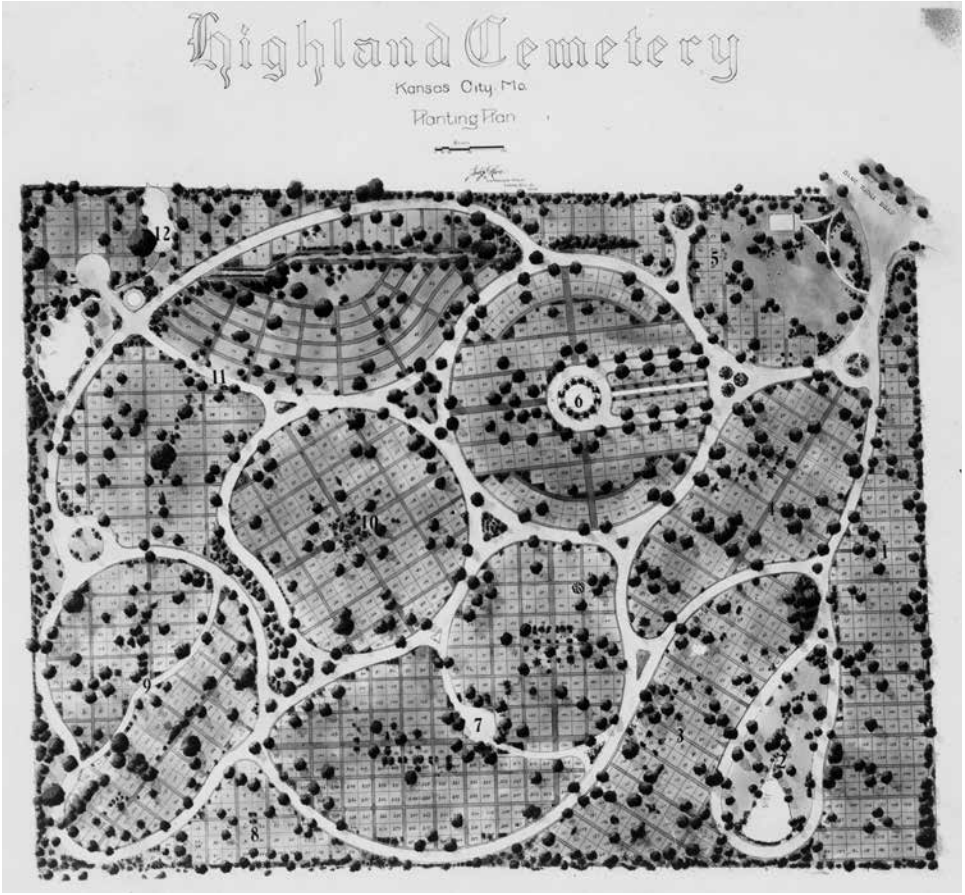
Sid and Herbert Hare, by their very natures, refused to call attention to themselves, but their work, and that of the firm, continues to speak for them.<sup>2</sup> Countless neighborhoods, such as Nichols Hills in Oklahoma City, Westboro in Topeka, and Yale Park in Salt Lake City, bear the mark of the model, Kansas City's Country Club District. Hare & Hare master plans serve as references for smaller Midwest cities, such as Columbia, Missouri, and Lawrence, Kansas. Parks large and small still bear their imprint and are valued by citizens and city officials alike. At Point Defiance Park, munic-



Lake Sacajawea, Longview, Washington, c. 1928. SHSMO-KC.



A Hare & Hare streetscape in Mission Hills, 2017. Photo by Richard Welnowski.



Planting plan for Highland Cemetery, Kansas City, 1908. SHSMO-KC.