

A CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF
RIVER FOREST PARK IN NORTH KANSAS CITY,
CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION NO. 35

by
Jim D. Feagins
Archaeological Research Associate

under the direction of
Michael Weichman
Senior Archaeological Research Coordinator

February 1987

*THE KANSAS CITY MUSEUM
3218 GLADSTONE BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64123*



Submitted in fulfillment of a contract between
the City of North Kansas City, Missouri
and The Kansas City Museum

National Park Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund

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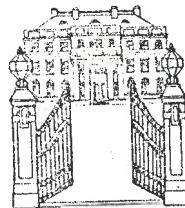
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Many individuals have aided this cultural resource survey. The willing aid of the Kansas City Museum staff (including Michael Weichman, Jean Svadlenak, Marie Sanders, and Sherrie D. Smith) was, as always, greatly appreciated. Also I want to thank individuals on the North Kansas City staff for supplying information on the park. These individuals are: John Gallagher, City Administrator; and David Woodruff, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Other individuals were interviewed concerning knowledge they might have about any cultural resources within or near the park area. These individuals include: Allen A. Heflin, R. B. Aker, Stanley "Bud" L. Kroenche, Gary D. Brenner, Al Knight, Milton F. Perry, Douglas D. Ballard, Eugene R. Jenkins, and Edna Scharz. I also appreciate the help given by staff of the Historic Preservation Program of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Archaeological Survey of Missouri, the Liberty Field Office of the Soil Conservation Service, the Liberty Branch of the Mid-Continent Library, the Northland Chamber of Commerce, and the North Kansas City Public Library.

A special thanks should be given to my wife, Margaret "Peggy" E. Feagins, for proofreading portions of this report. I sincerely hope that I have not omitted anyone's name who should have been acknowledged.

Feb. 28, 1987

Dear Mrs Scharz,

Thanks for your help!
Since you are so interested
in archaeology, I have
enclosed two flyers that
I thought you would be
especially interested in. The
Missouri Archaeological Soc.
is one that I am sure
you would enjoy.
Best wishes,
Jim Feagins

J. D. F.

February 1987

Jim D Feagins
13213 Bennington Ave
Grandview MO 64030

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	i
Table of Contents	ii
List of Illustrations	iii
Abstract	1
Introduction and Project Information	7
Environment of the General River Forest Park Area	13
The Prehistory of the Kansas City Area	21
Previous Archaeological Investigations in Clay County	24
A General History of the North Kansas City Area	30
Method of Present Investigation	31
Results of Present Investigation	33
Recommendations in Relation to Project Impact	34
References Cited	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1. River Forest Park in Southwest Clay County	2
Fig. 2. Zoning District Map, North Kansas City	3
Fig. 3. North Kansas City Street Guide and Points of Interest	4
Fig. 4. Topographic Map of North Kansas City Area	5
Fig. 5. Plat Map of River Forest Park	6
Fig. 6. Missouri River Watershed Map	11
Fig. 7. Cultural Sequences in the Kansas City Area	14
Fig. 8. Township Map of Clay County	26
Fig. 9. A 1914 Map of the North Kansas City Area	28

ABSTRACT

In December of 1986, Kansas City Museum personnel conducted a cultural resource survey of River Forest Park in the city of North Kansas City, Clay County, Missouri. The survey was in association with limited park development (i.e. the construction of a hiking trail). The record search and intensive on-site survey located no significant historic or prehistoric cultural remains within the park.

INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT INFORMATION

In December of 1986, a cultural resource survey was conducted in relationship to the proposed construction of a hiking trail within River Forest Park, North Kansas City, Missouri. This intensive survey was conducted by this writer, representing the Kansas City Museum.

The city of North Kansas City is located north of the Missouri River in southwestern Clay County and is surrounded by Kansas City, Missouri (figs. 1-4). River Forest Park occupies approximately 7.5 acres at the northern edge of North Kansas City. This small park lies a short distance north of Highway 210 and west of Highway 1 (figs. 1-4). Interstates 29 and 35 are located adjacent to the west side of the park. Within the N $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 13, T50N, R33W, the park adjoins the Hillside addition to the east and the River Forest housing development to the north. To the south, a number of businesses are separated from the park by an unnamed channelized stream and levee.

Another smaller creek flows through the park itself. River Forest Park is located principally on several small, low creek terraces at the junction of where the unnamed creek enters the Missouri River floodplain. Sloping to the south, the park has a relief of slightly over 50 feet. The entrance to the park is from the east by way of 26th Avenue (fig. 4-5).

The park, purchased in 1976, was partly funded by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The purpose of this archaeological and historical resource survey is to (1) inventory any significant cultural remains that could be affected by the proposed project construction activities, (2) make recommendations relating to any cultural resources found, and (3) help meet federal requirements--namely the National Environmental Policy Act, (P.L. 91-190); Advisory Council of Historic Preservation's regulation 36CFR, Part 800; and Executive Order 11593.

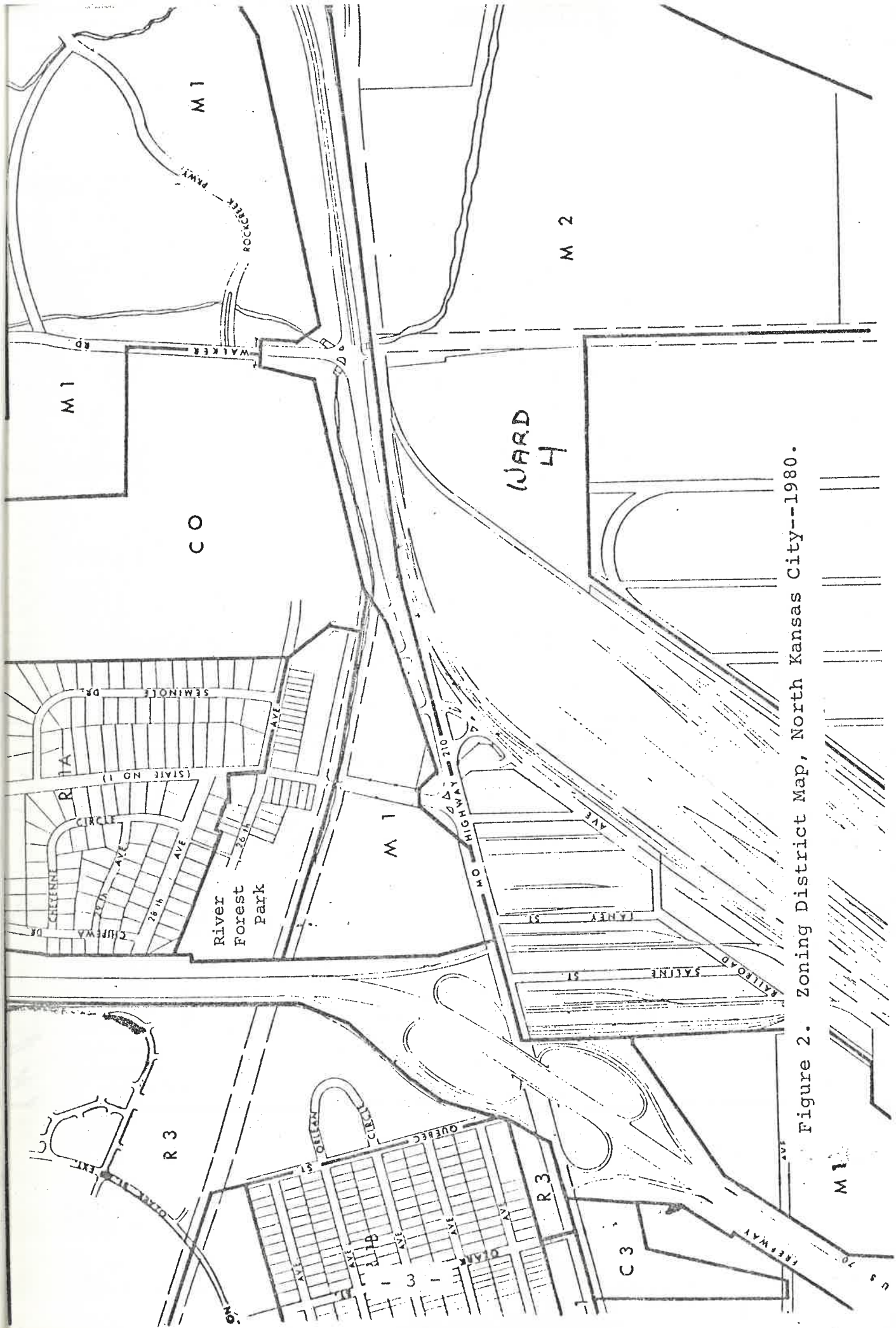


Figure 2. Zoning District Map, North Kansas City--1980.

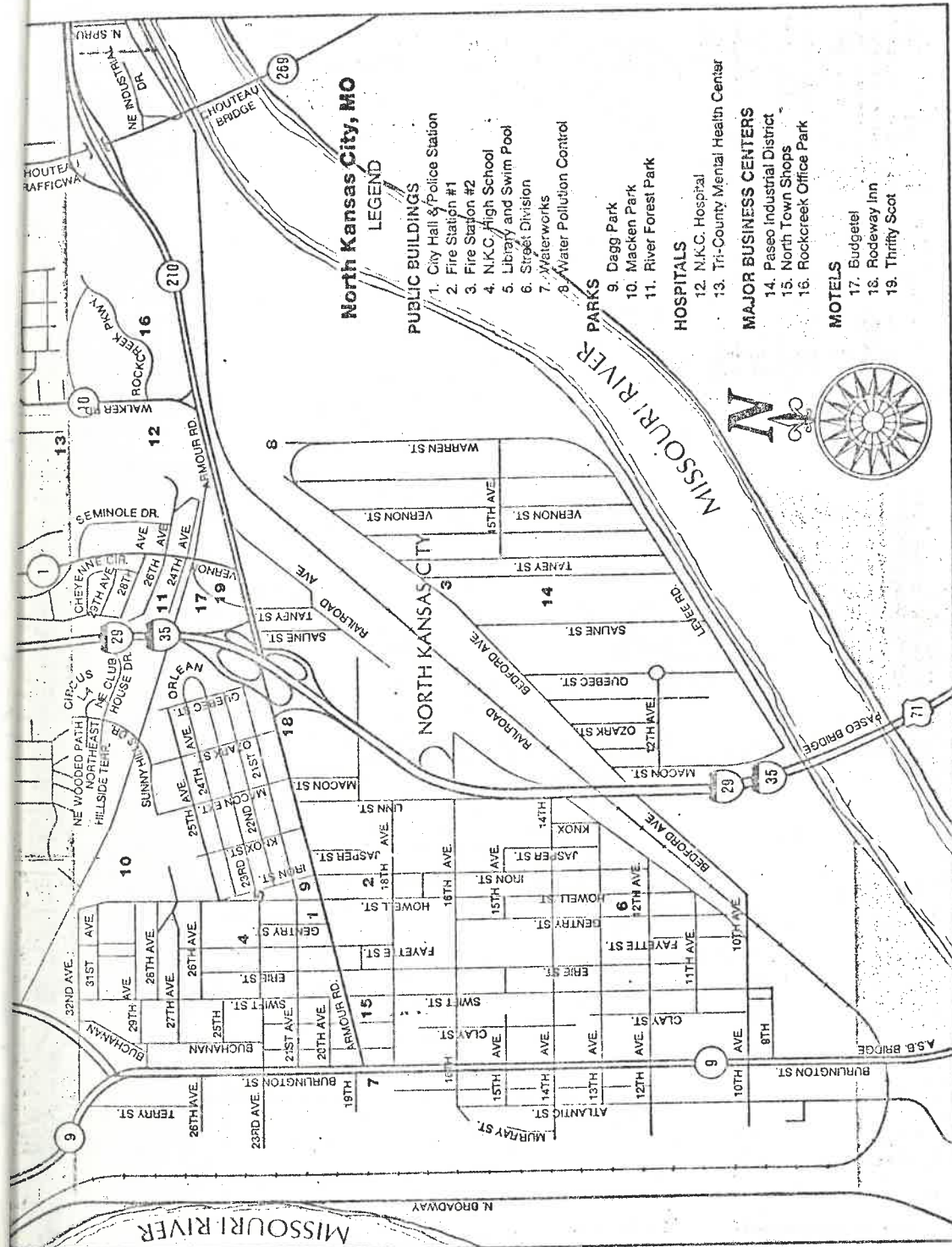


Figure 3. North Kansas City Street Guide and Points of Interest (Northland Chamber of Commerce).

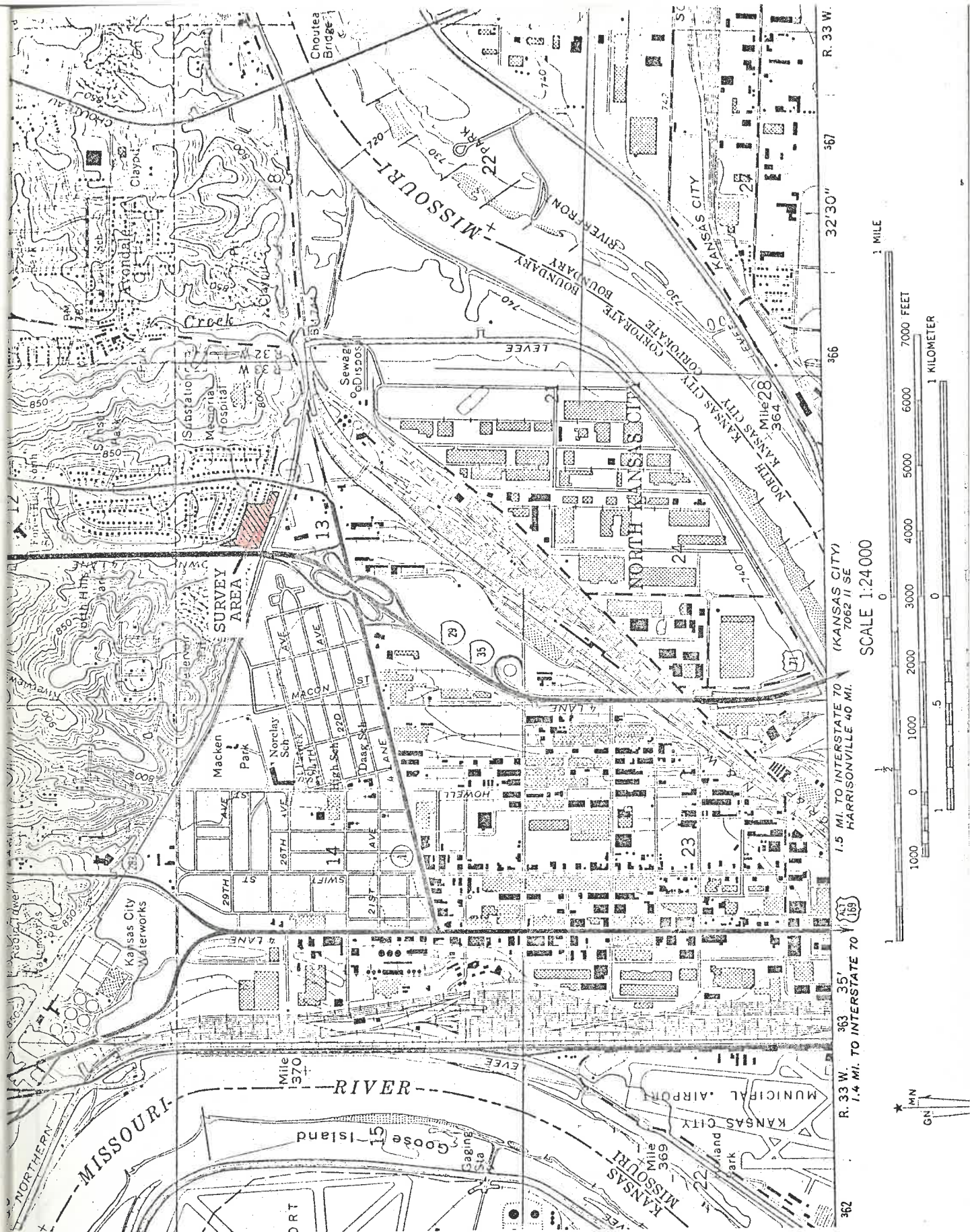


Figure 4. Topographic Map of North Kansas City Area (USGS North Kansas City 7 1/2' Quadrangle 1970). Top of map is north. Contour interval = 10 ft. The River Forest Park survey area is shown = 

28th Ave.

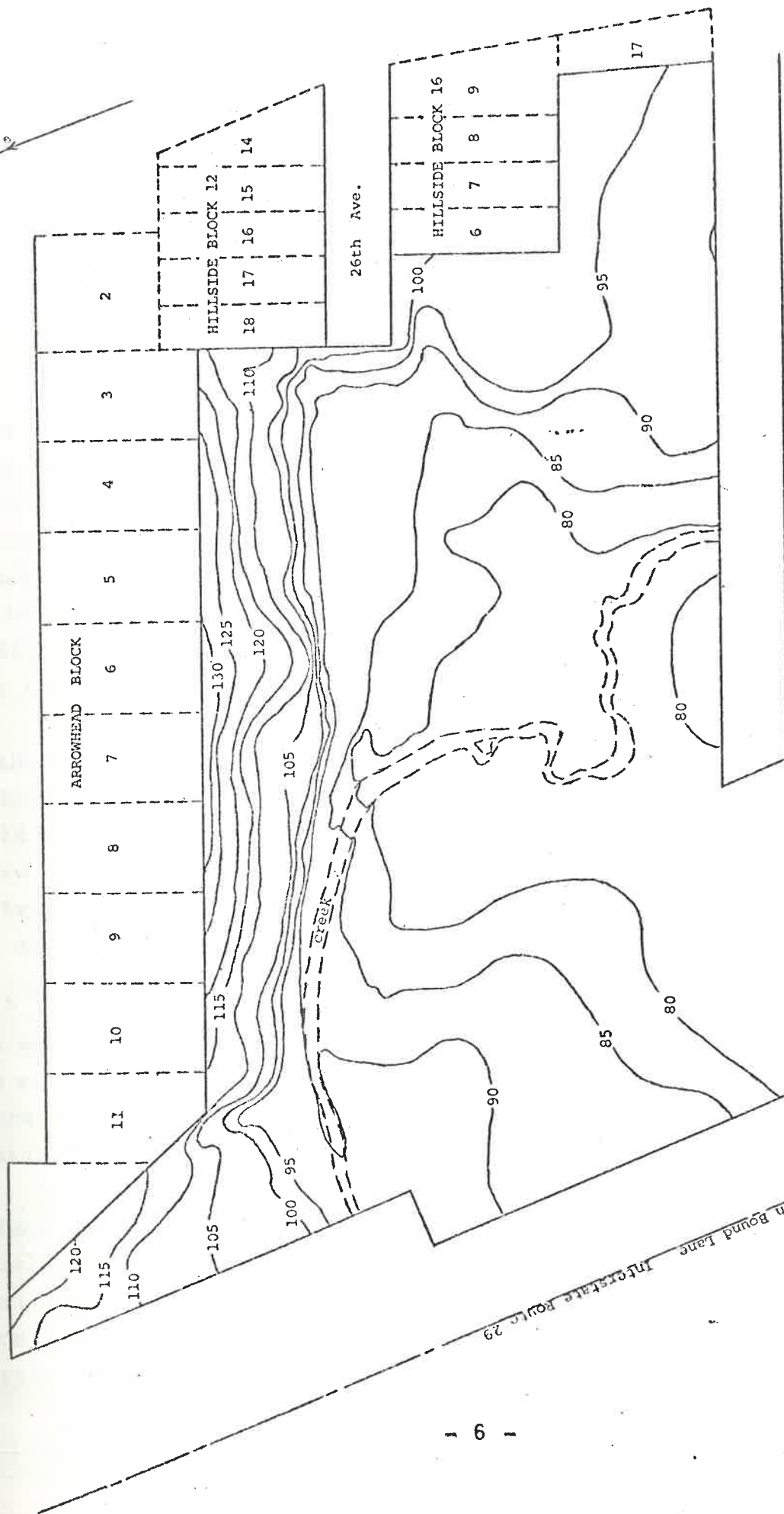


Figure 5. Plat Map of River Forest Park, North Kansas City, Mo.
(after map supplied by North Kansas City). Contour interval =
5 ft. (Kansas City datum). Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 175 ft.

ENVIRONMENT OF THE GENERAL RIVER FOREST PARK AREA

The environment has always exerted an important influence on historic and prehistoric man. The environment can limit to a certain extent in the cultural choices that can be made. Cultural researchers are interested in environment, not only from a standpoint of how man has adapted, but also how man in turn has affected the environment.

Climate affected both prehistoric and historic man and helped to regulate the plants and animals that are available for man's use. Knowledge of the present climate can not only aid in understanding of what the climate was like for the early pioneers of the Kansas City area, but also enable researchers to have a starting point for hypothesizing about past climates in the area. Climate is the total aggregate of atmospheric conditions affecting heat, moisture, and air movement over a long time span for a given region.

The present local climatic information is based on the weather records from the Kansas City station--1936 to 1975 period. Only a greatly condensed summary of the area's climate would be appropriate in this report. The average yearly temperature is 55.6° F. January is the coldest month and July is the hottest. The normal mean Fahrenheit temperatures for the months are as follows:

	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
	29.7	33.1	43.2	55.5	65.3	74.7	79.5	78.0	70.0	59.1	44.7	33.6

The mean date of first freeze in the fall is October 30, and the mean date of last freeze in the spring is April 6, with an average number of 207 days between the last and first freeze (National Weather Service).

Due to the length of the growing season, frost danger is seldom serious. However, in March, when the temperatures are usually most erratic, abnormal warmth sometimes forces vegetation ahead of the season, thereby increasing possible damage from late frost. This may have had an effect on prehistoric horticulture and on wild fruits and berries used for food.

For the Kansas City station the average number of clear in a year is 118, with 103 days being partly cloudy and days being cloudy. Most commonly, sunny days occur in the spring and fall.

The mean precipitation is 36.66 inches per year, with most received during the spring and summer. From this amount average annual runoff in the Kansas City area is approximately 6.5 inches (Homyk, et al. 1967: 254). The monthly precipitation values in inches are as follows:

F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1.46	2.59	3.40	4.70	4.82	3.85	3.95	4.30	2.91	1.87	1.46

The lowest amount of moisture is received in January, and the greatest amount falls in May, June and September. There is a wide range from year to year in the monthly averages of precipitation. Thunderstorms are common in the spring, and tornadoes known to occur in this area.

The prevailing winds are from the south from April to October. During the winter season, north or northwest winds prevail, though south winds are frequent. The windiest time of the year is during March and April with July and August being the least windy. There also tends to be a diurnal wind variation, with the wind speed being greatest during the warmest part of the day and falling off at night.

The general climate trends in the Kansas City area are similar to that for most of the rest of Missouri. Kansas City's climate is a "Cfa" type (VanDorne, et al. 1975: 20). This type refers to a climate with hot summers and general warm temperatures and no distinct dry season.

The prehistoric inhabitants of this area were undoubtedly exploiting plant and animal resources from a variety of environmental niches. In the early historic times both prairie and forest areas overlapped in western Missouri. The flora and fauna present in the Kansas City area were typical of the plants and animals found elsewhere in western Missouri. No attempt will be made here to list all the flora and fauna found in this general area of oak-hickory forests and prairie grasses. However, a

ing of biological specimens found in archaeological context
the area would serve to point out some of the important
cies used by prehistoric man.

The following is a list of plants and animals that have
n recovered from Hopewellian sites in the Kansas City area.
s list was obtained as a result of investigations on the
wbridge (14WY1), Young (23PL4) Sibley (23JA73), Renner
PL1), and Neiman (23PL51) sites (Johnson 1971, 1975; Logan
9: 25; Feagins 1984; Wedel 1943; Adair and Feagins 1986).

Bison (Bison bison)
Elk (Cervus canadensis)
Deer (Odocoileus sp.)
Lynx (Lynx rufus)
Black bear (Euarctos americanus)
Coyote (Canis latrans)
Dog (Canis familiaris)
Grey fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus)
Red fox (Vulpes fulva)
Beaver (Castor canadensis)
Raccoon (Procyon lotor)
Eastern cottontail (Sylvilagus floridanus)
Plains pocket gopher (Geomys bursarius)
Hispid pocket mouse (cf. Perognathus hispidus)
Rice rat (cf. Oryzomys palustris)
Fox squirrel (Sciurus niger)
Eastern wood rat (Neotoma floridans)
Wild turkey (Melagis gallapayo)
Ruffed grouse (Bonasa unbellus)
Salamander (Ambystoma sp.)
Soft shelled turtle (Trionyx sp.)
Ornate box turtle (Terrapene ornata)
Common musk turtle (cf. Sternotherus odoratus)
Elegant slider turtle (Chrysemys scripta)
Map turtle (Graptemys sp.)
Pit viper: copperhead or timber rattlesnake (Crotalidae)
Snake: worm snake or eastern ring-necked snake (Colubridae)
Garter snake (Thamnophis sp.)
Pink heel-splitter mussel (Proptera alata)
White heel-splitter mussel (Lasmigona complanata)
Maple-leaf mussel (Quadrula quadrula)
Fat mucket mussel (Lampsilis siliquoidea)
Paper mussel (Leptodea sp.)
Blue catfish (Ictalurus furcatus)
Channel catfish (Ictalurus punctatus)
Flathead (Ptyodictis olivaris)
Buffalo fish (Ictiobus sp.)
Longnose gar (Lepisosteus osseus)
Freshwater drum (Aplocinatus grunniens)

Persimmon (Diospyros virginiane)
 Black walnut (Juglans nigra)
 Hazelnut (Corylus americana)
 Beaked hazelnut (Corylus cornuta)
 Pawpaw (Asimina trilobe)
 Hickory (Carya sp.)
 Willow (Salix sp.)
 Butternut hickory (Carya cordiformis)
 Maple (Acer sp.)
 Elm (Ulmus sp.)
 Pecan (Carya illinoense)
 Oak (Quercus sp.)
 Wild grape (Vitis sp.)
 Wormwood (Artemisia sp.)
 River bulrush (Scirpus cf. fluviatilis)
 Common ragweed (Ambrosia artemisifolia)
 Pigweed (Amaranthus sp.)
 Goosefoot (Chenopodium sp.)
 Pokeweed (Phytolacca americana)
 Marshelder (Iva anrus)
 Corn (Zea sp.)
 Squash (Curcubita sp.)
 Amaranth (Amaranthus sp.)

Undoubtedly all of the plants and animals listed above would have been available to the prehistoric people within and around the Kansas City area, at least since after A.D. 1. For a detailed listing of the present flora and fauna in the area see VanDorne et al. (1975:34-42) and MacKenzie (1902).

From the Pleistocene--ice age--ancient animal remains are occasionally exposed. Mehl (1962:95-97, 99 & 101) reports the finds of Pleistocene mastodon, bison, deer, peccary and horse from the Kansas City area. Martin (1979:7-8, 13-14, 17-18) and Chandler (personal communication) also report fossilized remains from the area--extinct bison, ground sloth, mastodon, deer, peccary, man and musk ox.

River Forest Park is located in what the Missouri Office of Historic Preservation calls Watershed no. 4 of the Missouri principal drainage basin (fig. 6). This area is within the archaeological-physiographic region called the Northwest Prairie and the Loess Hills geographic unit of the Northern Plains area (Chapman 1975:3, 6). The park is located on a terrace, flood plain, and lower bluff slope setting.

The primary soil associations within the city of North Kansas

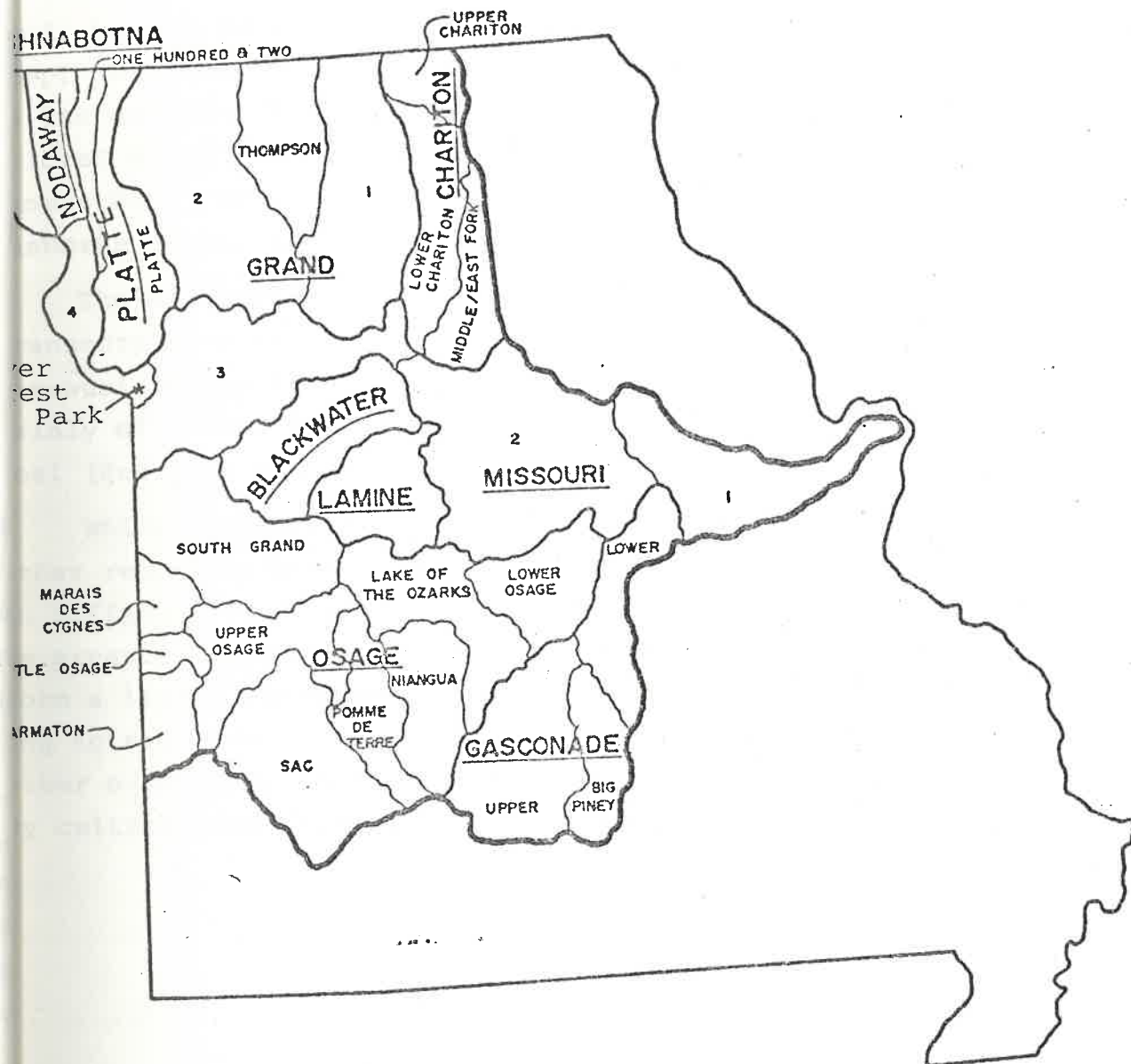


Figure 6. Project Location Within the Missouri River Watershed (Weichman 1980).

ty are the Leta-Haynie-Waldron Association (flood plain
luviums) and the Knox-Sibley Association (upland loess).
om the Soil Survey of Clay and Ray Counties, Missouri the park
cation is part of the Knox-Urban land complex and the Urban
nd, bottom land complex (Preston 1986). The Knox soil is a
ep, well drained, moderately permeable, upland soil adjacent
o the Missouri River flood plains. The Knox soil is a light
lored silty loess (Preston 1986:83). Other information on the
ansas City area soils can be found in Mausel et al. (1976) and
anDorne et al. (1975:12-13).

The Missouri River Valley, in the North Kansas City area,
ransects several rock layers of Pennsylvanian age strata--
issouri Series (Vineyard 1967:fig. 2). This series is composed
ainly of shale, limestone, and sandstone, but also consists of
oal (Searight and Howe 1961:95-108; Branson 1944:280-286).

While prehistoric man used many of the rocks, minerals and
ther resources present within the Kansas City area, modern man,
n different ways, continues to exploit these resources. Man
s greatly influenced by the environment. "...human populations
orm a living ecosystem, tied to their environment and respond-
ng to the same types of external regulatory mechanisms as
other organisms, though in part adapting to environmental change
y cultural evolution..." (King and Graham 1981:128).

THE PREHISTORY OF THE KANSAS CITY AREA

While amateur and professional archaeologists have investigated the prehistory of the Kansas City area for many years, there remain many gaps in our understanding of the cultures of the past in this area. This region was apparently a rich environment for supplying the necessities for prehistoric man. Stone tools are abundant as testified by the great number of artifacts obtained by local collectors. But artifacts by themselves are relatively meaningless unless they can explain the life style and evolution of past cultures and help explain how cultural processes work.

Archaeologists presently are unsure when man first came to what is now known as the Kansas City area. The period in which man first arrived is usually called the Early Man Period, and Chapman (1975:26) feels it was prior to 12,000 B.C. There are some investigators who are willing to extend this date much farther back in time (Bryan 1978; Coles 1979:167).

For many years the cultural time periods used in Missouri were primarily based on research first conducted in the wood-land area of Eastern United States. This borrowed cultural sequence did not always exactly fit (especially in the later time periods) the information that investigators were beginning to discover while working in Kansas and Missouri. For this reason, area archaeologists have developed their own modified versions of the cultural sequences (fig. 7).

Very little information is known about the Early Man Period in Missouri. Information concerning this period in the Kansas City area may be represented at the Shriver site (23DV12), where researchers claim to have discovered a pre-projectile point horizon (Reagan and Evans 1976; Reagan et al. 1978), although the evidence is not yet conclusive in this regard.

The second prehistoric cultural period in the Kansas City area is the Paleo-Indian Period. One of the most diagnostic and easy to recognize artifacts that the Paleo-Indians produced is the fluted point. In Missouri these points have been found

ate	Kansas Antiquities Commission	Johnson 1974	Chapman 1975
800	Historic		Historic
600	Late Ceramic		Late Mississippi
400			
200	Middle Ceramic		Middle Mississippi
1000		Steed- Kisker	Early Mississippi
500	Early Ceramic	Late Woodland	Late Woodland
AD BC		Kansas City Hopewell	Middle Woodland
1000		Late Archaic	Early Woodland
2000			Late Archaic
4000	Archaic	Middle Archaic	Middle Archaic
6000		Early Archaic	Early Archaic
8000			Dalton
10000	Paleo- Indian		Paleo- Indian
12000			Early Man

Figure 7. Cultural Sequences Relating to the Kansas City Area.
(after Brown 1977: 2).

ally in counties bordering the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

fluted projectile points have been recovered from Jackson County, and three were recovered from Clay County (Chapman 1975:67; Feagins 1976a; Feagins 1982a, 1982b). In Missouri these points are usually recovered on high land near major stream drainages. Apparently, these people lived primarily but not exclusively by hunting; and at least some of the animals they obtained are now extinct. In addition to the fluted points, Paleo-Indian sites also contain snubbed-end scrapers, graters, flake knives, side scrapers and unfluted points (Chapman 1975:68).

Artifacts of the Dalton culture are occasionally encountered in the Kansas City area. They occupied a transitional time span from the Paleo-Indian Period into the Early Archaic Period. Chapman (1975) chooses to devote a separate short period (Dalton Period 8,000 B.C.-7,000 B.C.) to this cultural group. Most other archaeologists simply place this cultural group within the Early Archaic Period. Dalton points and other tools may reflect some cultural adaptation to an altered environment. Known Dalton sites are typically small and were probably used only for a relatively short time. In some areas foraging probably became almost equal to hunting as a means of obtaining food (Chapman 1975:96). Much needs to be learned about this early Archaic group of people in northwestern Missouri.

Other Early Archaic points are occasionally found in addition to those attributed to the Dalton people. Hardin Barbed, Late Basin and Plainview points have been recovered from this same period in the Kansas City area (Reeder 1978:9; Shippee 1950:4; Feagins 1976:26).

Present understanding of the life style and cultural interactions that took place in the Middle and Late Archaic Periods is lacking in depth. A side-notched point tradition is present in the Kansas City area during this period (Reeder 1977; Reagan and Oman 1977). Sites containing these points tend to be small and reflect short-term, but perhaps repeated, usage. This type of site utilization is what one would expect from a nomadic or semi-nomadic people. While hunting was very important, gathering appears to

become increasingly important as time went on. There is a wider range of tools produced especially in the Late Archaic period. This is probably a reflection of a greater utilization of different resources from the environment (Chapman 1975:184).

Many types of projectile points were present in the Late Archaic Period with both expanding and contracting stemmed varieties originating during this time. Some of these point types appear to have remained in usage for a long period and continued usage into the Woodland periods. Due to the drier, warmer climate in the Middle and Late Archaic periods, the prairies expanded at the expense of the forest areas. This may have been the stimulus for greater utilization of the environment by these foraging people.

An important cultural complex in the Kansas City area during the Archaic Period is the Nebo Hill. The Nebo Hill people appear to have practiced a foraging economy with heavy reliance on processing wild plants as well as utilizing animal resources. The most diagnostic tool of this complex is the Nebo Hill point type--a lanceolate form with a modified diamond shaped cross-section. Large digging tools called "Sedalia Diggers", three-quarter grooved axes, flat manos, flat celts, chert hammerstones, polished hematite, and other artifacts are also recovered on Nebo Hill sites. The larger more heavily utilized sites are located on high ground associated with a major stream. Smaller Nebo Hill occupations are occasionally found on the valley floors (Reeder 1978:; Blakeslee 1979). These valley sites may reflect a winter habitation area where there would be more protection from the elements. It should also be pointed out that Nebo Hill and other Archaic sites are probably more numerous in the valley locations than is presently realized. From the Hillsdale Reservoir area, Blakeslee (1979) reports half a dozen Nebo Hill sites which are all found on valley floor locations. Undoubtedly, older valley sites would have a greater tendency than more recent sites to have been either washed away or buried by stream deposits.

From the Doherty site, Blakeslee excavated two features, felt to be small Nebo Hill houses (1979). He suggests that the

is a winter camp occupied simultaneously by two nuclear families. Trade toward the northeast may be inferred from a piece of copper found in this horizon (Deel 1985:71).

The placement of the Nebo Hill complex in a time perspective is a problem ever since the complex was first defined by Shippee (1948). Based upon the lanceolate shaped style of projectile point, it was thought that this complex would date back to the Early Archaic period (Shippee 1964:13). In recent years, researchers have discovered that this complex is not that old. Brian (1977:5 & 181) favors assigning the Nebo Hill complex to the Middle Archaic period. Other researchers contend that these people principally occupied the Late Archaic period. Carbon-14 dates tend to support the later dating of this complex.

Researchers noted a stylistic overlap of Nebo Hill and Sedalia point variations. The Sedalia points are part of the prehistoric tools found on sites of the Sedalia phase located to the east of Kansas City. A series of C-14 dates from a site in the western Missouri Ozarks firmly places the Sedalia phase at the Phillips Spring site between 2,000 and 1,000 B.C. (King 1980:220). This dating confirms the assignment of a Late Archaic age.

Long, broad lanceolate shaped points with a lenticular cross-section are diagnostic of the Sedalia phase. However, it is not uncommon to find Sedalia points on Nebo Hill sites and to find Nebo Hill points on some Sedalia sites or on occasion to find points that seem to be intermediate between the two types. Also these two complexes share a number of other tool types in common (Chapman 1975:200). For these reasons most researchers feel that the Nebo Hill and the Sedalia people were contemporaneous in the Late Archaic period. It is possible that the Sedalia phase was derived from "early Nebo Hill".

The discovery of fiber tempered pottery in good association at 23CL11, a Nebo Hill site, adds further support for the late dating of this complex (Reid 1984). Perhaps this complex began sometime during the Middle Archaic and extended through most of the rest of the Archaic period.

The Woodland period started before the time of Christ in the

Kansas City area. The cultural processes that took place between the Late Archaic period and the Middle Woodland or Kansas City Hopewell period are poorly understood. Sites dating from early in the Woodland period seem to be sparse in the area. Perhaps the transition from Archaic to Middle Woodland occupied a relatively short duration of time.

Two traits of the Woodland period which are generally used to distinguish it from the Late Archaic are the introduction of pottery and a more common usage of burial mounds. However, during the Late Archaic period in the southeastern portion of the United States, pottery containing fiber temper is known to occur, as has been discovered on the Nebo Hill site. To the east of Kansas City, the Early Woodland period has been characterized by "Black and Pottery". Early Woodland components may be present, in the Kansas City area, at the Shields site (23CL1) (Shippee 1967), at site 23JA36 (Johnson 1979:87), at a site on Avondale Hill (Chapman 1980:10), at site 23JA159 and at site 23PL285.

Artifacts from the Middle Woodland or Kansas City Hopewell period have been found on many sites in the area (Shippee 1967; Johnson 1979; Wedel 1943). While many types of artifacts were made by the Hopewell people, the most diagnostic artifacts are the decorated pottery--usually containing grit temper. Also prismatic biface points are considered somewhat diagnostic, as well as certain types of projectile points and other lithic material.

The Hopewell culture's origin and center of development was to the east in the states of Illinois and Ohio. It is felt that migrations from the east lead to the development of what is referred to as the "Kansas City Hopewell" (Shippee 1967:1; Chapman 1980:27). These pioneer Hopewell communities apparently were the first to introduce horticulture into the area. Although some horticulture was practiced by certain Late Archaic people (Chomko and Crawford 1978; King 1980), there is no evidence that this occurred in the Kansas City area. Although gardening was practiced by the Hopewell, the major means of subsistence was probably by hunting and gathering (Johnson 1976:7; 1979:88).

The Hopewell engaged in widespread trading and undoubtedly

red in certain religious practices with their "kin" to the east. The sharing of many ideas and cultural items is sometimes referred to as the "Hopewell Interaction Sphere" (Struever 1964; Adelson 1964). There is also evidence of some specialization in the manufacturing of crafts. Interesting decorated pottery was produced as well as ceramic effigies, stone pipes, and many other items (Shippee 1967; Johnson 1976:10; Feagins 1977, 1984, in press). The Kansas City Hopewell buried at least a portion of their dead in stone walled, earth filled burial mounds usually located on bluffs near their villages.

The Late Woodland people in the area also utilized burial mounds, made pottery, and practiced horticulture. However, the numerous sites associated with this period appear to be smaller and their artistic expression, cultural trade, and religious practices all seem to have declined when compared with that of the Middle Woodland period. During the Late Woodland period the interaction sphere that started with the Hopewell was apparently no longer in operation. The bow and arrow came into common usage during this period but may have been first introduced into the area during the latter portion of the Middle Woodland period (Johnson 1976:14). Pottery tended to be plain or cord marked and often had pointed or rounded bases.

In the Kansas City area, the Mississippian period is characterized by a farming people living in villages and isolated farmsteads. Shell tempered pottery, triangular shaped arrowpoints, beveled and unbeveled knives, hoes, sandstone abraders, blunt end scrapers, shell beads, stone pipes, and other artifacts, including bone tools, were produced by these people. At least eleven houses of the Mississippian period have been excavated in close proximity of Kansas City (Shippee 1972:5; McHugh 1979). The Mississippian period, Maybrook phase, a Pomona focus subdivision was identified by Brown (1979, 1984). The Seven Acres site (23JA115), site 23JA238 (Brown 1984:445) and the Vaughn-Estess site (23JA269) (Feagins 1985; Parisi 1985) are considered to represent the Maybrook phase.

The Steed-Kisker culture was first defined by Wedel (1943).

cept for the pottery, most of the tools made by this group of people were similar to that produced by other late prehistoric groups to the west and northwest. The shell tempered pottery was often shaped and contained designs somewhat similar to pottery produced at Cahokia and other Middle Mississippian sites to the east (Wedel 1943; Shippee 1972; O'Brien 1978). The Steed-Kiskadee people principally harvested maize, beans, squash, bison and deer. They resided in the area around A.D. 1000 - 1250 (O'Brien 1978:69-70; Chapman 1980:158).

In addition to the above cultures, the Oneota was probably also present in this area during this late prehistoric period. The Oneota appears to be the ancestors of many of the tribes that became prominent in western Missouri and eastern Kansas during historic times. The Kansa, Missouri and Osage tribes all interacted in the Kansas City area.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN CLAY COUNTY

While a great amount of archaeological research has been conducted in Clay County with the resulting location of many sites, no sites have been previously recorded within or adjacent to the park area.

An extremely interesting archaeological site was excavated on the river bluff approximately 1/3 of a mile east of River Forest Park. This site, the Avondale Mounds site (23CL23), was excavated in 1934 - 35 and again in 1949 - 52 after which the site was destroyed by use as a borrow area for Missouri River levee construction (Shippee 1953). The North Kansas City Hospital now occupies this location. The site was a multiple component prehistoric cemetery. Many red ocher covered graves were discovered, which probably date to the Archaic period. A later group of people during the Woodland period also used this cemetery. In addition to the scattered graves, they built several mounds which also were used for burials. Unfortunately, only a small portion of the site was salvaged prior to its destruction by power shovels.

Between the park and the Avondale Mounds site, Shippee (1953:19) indicated that there are two campsites located on terraces within an unnamed stream valley. They would only be about 1/4 of a mile east of River Forest Park. One of these sites, 23CL24, contained cord-roughened, grit-tempered sherds and a few projectile points (Shippee 1953:37). Also some Hopewellian style pottery (A.D. 1 - 550) has been found in this valley.

Approximately 2.5 miles east, northeast of River Forest Park, several sites have been reported along Searcy Creek (Jenkins 1976b). These sites contain Woodland and Archaic components.

Also east of the proposed project area near the Missouri City area, surveying, testing and excavation were conducted along the proposed route of Highway 210 (Reagan and Oman 1977; Reagan et al. 1978; Reid 1978, 1984). One of the sites along this route is one of the most important sites in the Kansas City area.

is Late Archaic site--Nebo Hill, 23CL11--has been described by Shippee (1948, 1964) and excavated by Reid (1978). This is the so-called type site for the Nebo Hill phase.

A small archaeological survey was conducted in Clay and Wyandott counties northeast of Excelsior Springs (Rappold 1969). A few rock and earth mounds were located in that area. Within the Fishing River drainage a survey was conducted during portions of 1970-73 (Martin 1976). This survey laid the foundation for a cultural chronology within the drainage and supplied interpretive data concerning prehistoric settlement/subsistence relationships. Considerable additional archaeological work has been conducted at sites in the Smithville Reservoir area (O'Brien 1977; Riley 1967; McHugh 1979). This lake is in the northwestern corner of Clay County.

Several archaeological investigations have been conducted within Watkins Mill State Park in northeastern Clay County. These investigations were all associated with the historic components in the park (Bray 1972a, 1972b, 1979, 1982; Rucker 1964).

Butler (1974) and Evans (1974) conducted an archaeological survey along the addition to I-435 which is located a short distance west of Hodge Park. Additional sites were identified and tested as a result of the I-435 project in the lower portion of the East Fork of Shoal Creek. Also along Shoal Creek, archaeological work has been conducted by Bray (1981). His work results from a cultural resource survey relating to the development of an industrial park. He examined three campsites and two burial locations in that area near the town of Birmingham.

In 1966, the Claymont site (23CL99) was excavated. This Late Woodland site is located approximately 2.3 miles northwest of River Forest Park. Apparently, a prehistoric house of wattle-and-daub construction was present on the site. Numerous cord-marked pottery sherds and chipped-stone tools were recovered (Knight 1986).

Numerous other reports relating to the archaeology of the

ay County area are: Calabrese 1969, 1974; Chapman 1975, 1980;
ans and Ives 1976, 1978, 1981; Fowke 1910; Feagins 1978, 1979,
80, 1981, 1982; Garrison and Denman 1979; Grantham 1980a,
80b, 1981a, 1981b, 1983, 1985; Henning 1981; Johnson 1979;
arisi 1985a; Root 1979; Schmits, Collins and Wright 1982; Shippee
41, 1956, 1967, 1970, 1972; Stewart 1943; Sturdevant 1977,
986; Wedel 1943; and Weston 1986.

A GENERAL HISTORY OF THE NORTH KANSAS CITY AREA

In 1673, Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette, traveling down the Mississippi River, along with their five voyageurs, were probably the first Europeans to observe the muddy Missouri River, named after an Indian tribe along its banks (Meyers 1965). However, they learned but little about this stream whose basin contained much of the United States and all of what eventually became Clay County. Over the years other French explorers and traders followed; some traveled up the Missouri River, eventually leaving the forest lands and entering onto the Great Plains.

One hundred and forty-five years after Marquette and Joliet's journey came the first slight hint of the great city that would be built where the Kaw (Kansas) River joined the Missouri. Here in 1821, at the Kawsmouth, M. Chouteau established storage facilities to supply his, by then, well developed network of trading posts. The city of Kansas City would come much later. Prior to this time, most of the early French traders were not well educated; thus they left but few records concerning their explorations.

Several historic Indian tribes interacted in northwest Missouri. One of the Kansa village sites was located in Missouri on King Hill in St. Joseph during the early 1700's (Ruppert 1974; Jennings 1977). Later they were exclusively located in northeastern Kansas, especially along the river bearing their name. The main Osage villages were located in northern Vernon County, Missouri, near Nevada (Berry et al. 1944; Chapman 1946) and some were living near the Missouri Indians in Saline County near Marshall, Missouri.

This territory was also claimed by Spain and France at various times prior to the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. At that time the fledgling country of the United States purchased a vast amount of midcontinental land from France. This purchase paved the way for a series of government-sponsored explorations of the territory--the first being led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark (1804-1806).

Permanent settlers first came to the county in 1819. Migration was rapid between 1820 and 1828 with most settlers coming from Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland and North Carolina (Conard 1901:18). Clay County was organized on January 1822. It was formed from a part of Ray County. The county was named after Henry Clay of Kentucky (Williams 1915:428). Callatin Township (in which North Kansas City is located--Fig. 1) is one of the original townships in the county (Anonymous 1885: 107; Woodson 1920:189). By 1825 steamboats made occasional trips up the Missouri River, and the first ferry between Clay and Jackson counties was established by Joseph Boggs. This was a period of rapid growth (Conrad 1901:18). An important market for Clay County horses, mules and other supplies was to the west in Kansas, at Fort Leavenworth, established in 1827. By 1830 the population of the county was 5,338, and steamboats had begun to make regular frequent trips up the Missouri.

After having been driven out of Jackson County by mob action, many Latter Day Saints (Mormons) came to Clay County in 1833. Again they were persecuted because of differences in religion and politics (especially over the slavery issue). By 1838 they left Missouri to settle in Nauvoo, Illinois.

The year of the great flood took place in 1844. The Missouri River flood is described as covering the land from bluff to bluff. Almost all of what became North Kansas City would have been covered by water.

The county grew steadily, and by 1860 there was a population of 13,023 (D.A.R. 1922:155). It is claimed that in Clay County there were no votes for Abraham Lincoln that year. Keep in mind that the vast majority of the county's settlers came from the South.

During the Civil War, the people of Clay County supported both the Federal and Confederate cause. The majority, however, supported the South with many young men joining the Confederate army. While there were some small battles--as at Blue Mills--much of the trouble in the area was due to gorilla bands. With

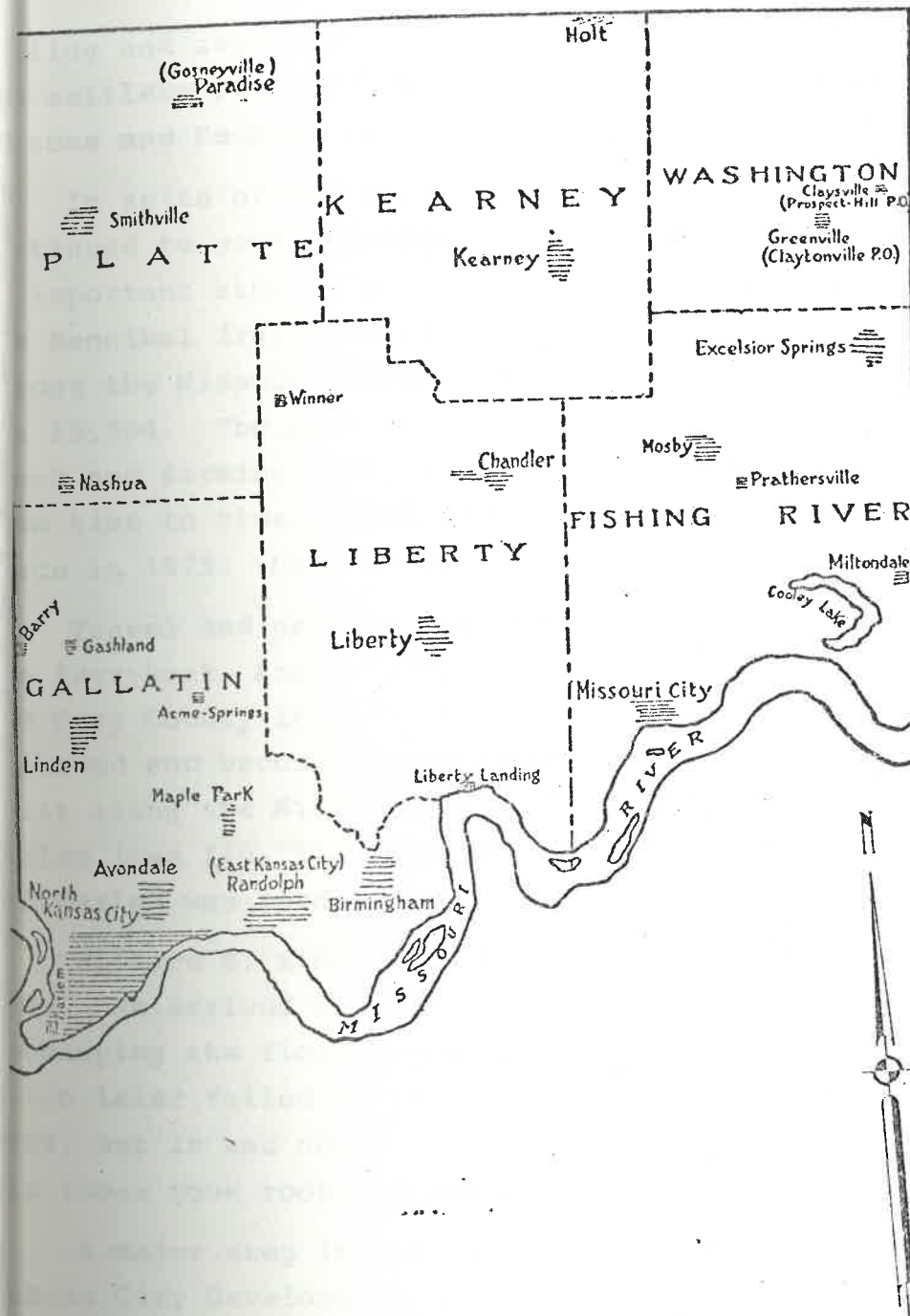


Figure 8. A Historic Township Map of Clay County, Missouri (DAR 1922:17). Approximate scale: 1 cm. = 1.7 miles.

lling and stealing not uncommon, life must have been hard for the settlers of Clay County. While not always effective, local persons and Federal troops tried to maintain law and order.

In spite of the set-back caused by the war, the county continued to grow, especially during the last half of the decade.

An important step in continued growth was the construction of the Hannibal (railroad) Bridge in 1866. It was the first bridge across the Missouri River. By 1879, Clay County's population was 15,564. The principle income in the county was from livestock and farming. Dry weather and insects were serious problems from time to time. What is called the "grasshopper year" took place in 1875. Many crops were destroyed by these insect hordes.

Travel and getting produce to market was sometimes a problem. The ferryboat, Annie Cade, started operation between Kansas City and Clay County in 1879 (Fulton 1983:12). Farms were being improved and becoming more productive. In 1880 a fine levee was built along the Missouri River bottom near the settlement of Harlem (see fig. 8). However, in 1881 a major flood occurred and Harlem was inundated.

Willard E. Winner was to have an important effect on the area. He arrived in 1883 and soon promoted a number of ideas for developing the floodplains. He started an investment company which later failed in 1900. The Winner bridge was started in 1888, but it was never completed. In spite of failures, many of his ideas took root and began to grow.

A major step in this growth was the organization of the North Kansas City Development Company in 1903, the same year of another great flood. Land was purchased, plans were made and growth was imminent. In 1909 a contract was let for building the Armour-Swift-Burlington (ASB) bridge over the Missouri River. It opened as a toll road in 1911 and served as an important link for Clay County with Kansas City. This helped lead to the establishment (November 12, 1912) of the town of North Kansas City (Fulton 1983: 164). The North Kansas City Development Co. grew rapidly and helped provide a number of improvements to the town (i.e. water



Figure 9. A 1914 Map of the North Kansas City Area (Anonymous 1914:56). Scale: 2 inches = 1 mile. Top of map is north.

nt and electric light plant). A post office was established in 1915. An important early asset to the town was the establishment in 1918 of a facility, by the U. S. government, for training for mechanics for World War I. North Kansas City's first newspaper was established in 1920. The town grew up and became a city (4th class) in 1924.

In 1927 two additional events helped ease transportation to the area north of the river--the establishment of a municipal airport and the ASB bridge became a free (non-toll) bridge. After 20 years, the electric rail line which had crossed the ASB bridge closed down in 1933. It had ceased to be profitable with the changing modes of transportation.

During this time, North Kansas City had become heavily industrialized. This trend has led to the industrial giant of today. North Kansas City became a 3rd class city in 1952. The city's population in 1960 was 5,657 people. Since that time, there has been some decline in population--5,183 people in 1970 and 4,507 people in 1980. Some of the major employers in the city today are: Corn Products Company, Cook Paint and Varnish, Farmland Industries, Inc., North Kansas City Memorial Hospital, Witaker Cable, Burlington Northern Railroad, and Southwestern Bell.

River Forest Park has simply been an undeveloped area for many years. Owned by the North Kansas City Development Company (Fig. 9) for approximately 70 years, the park land was obtained by the city in 1976.

METHOD OF PRESENT INVESTIGATION

A literature/record search and an on-site intensive field investigation were conducted during this cultural survey. Many historic, environmental and archaeological publications and reports; project map; list of sites on the National Register of Historic Places; list of previously reported archaeological sites from the general area; and various individuals and institutions were consulted during the record search. Records were searched from the cities of North Kansas City, Columbia, Liberty, Jefferson City and Grandview, Missouri. A list of the persons interviewed can be found in the acknowledgement section of this report.

An intensive on-site surface survey was conducted in order to identify any evidence of historic or prehistoric cultural remains. The total park area of approximately 7.5 acres was inspected. Surface visibility in River Forest Park varied considerably. The park is mostly tree covered with two small grass areas in the eastern portion. Fortunately, vegetation was at a low level due to the late December time of survey. While grass and tree leaves did hinder the survey, portions of the ground (in all areas of the park) were visible. Large animal paths and burrows, rodent mounds, stream banks, stream gravel bars, slope wash areas, gullies, recent bulldozer cuts, and natural bare areas around tree bases and in the grass were most observable. Approximately 5 to 10 % of the ground surface was visible at the time of the survey, except in the areas mentioned above, where 50 to 100 % surface visibility was present. These areas provided small transects of good visibility. The ground surface where ever exposed was intensively examined.

Several color photographs of the park were taken. These photographs are on file in the archives department of the Kansas City Museum.

RESULTS OF PRESENT INVESTIGATION

The literature/record search supplied environmental and archaeological background information as well as the historical results summarized in preceeding sections of this report.

Although previously recorded sites (23CL22, 23CL23, 23CL24 and 23CL91) are located within one kilometer of River Forest Park, no sites are listed within or adjacent to park property. No evidence of any significant historic or prehistoric material was discovered within the park. Also none of the persons interviewed (see list in acknowledgement section) had any knowledge of any significant cultural resources within or directly adjacent to the park area.

The park contains a number of natural features: a bluff slope, an upper terrace (containing a limestone ledge), a creek (with an area of white water where it goes over the small limestone layer), a stream terrace, an abandoned meander bar, several glacial boulders (glacial erratics), and a variety of plants and animals. During the survey, numerous squirrels, a variety of birds and one red fox were seen. Also deer tracks were observed in the park. Even though the surrounding area is quite developed, there are a surprising number of wildlife still present in the park.

The park does contain many items of modern trash, i.e. cans, bottles, bricks, paper and plastic products. These items are rather scattered; however, many are concentrated in several of the gullies within the steep slope at the north side of the park. Also in this area there are several large metal drainage pipes and two concret-lined ditches which appear to drain storm waters from off the street and lots in the housing development to the north of the park. Also some trash has been deposited in the creek and has washed into the park during floods. In the southeastern corner of the park, the soil on the upper elevation appears to have been leveled by earthmoving equipment a number of years prior to this survey. Also a minor amount of recent tree cutting and bulldozer work has been done in the park south

26th Avenue. Again, none of the cultural resources observed the park appear to have historical significance at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO PROJECT IMPACT

Based upon evidence obtained from a cultural resource survey including an intensive on-site inspection and a review of the archaeological/historical records, it appears that no significant cultural resources would be disturbed by the proposed construction activities within River Forest Park. It should be pointed out that no survey technique is completely adequate to locate all the sites in an area, given land cover, time and other factors such as deeply buried sites. So if during the course of any construction activities, buried cultural material of either a historic or prehistoric nature is uncovered, then work should be halted immediately, and the Division of Parks and Historic Preservation of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources should be contacted at once.

Throughout all stages of any project of this type, full cooperation is recommended by all parties concerned (contractors, engineers, the archaeologist, state and/or federal agencies, and the city) so as to avoid any unnecessary delays in construction while insuring that any significant cultural information can be salvaged whenever found. Any salvaged data should be preserved for the benefit of present and future generations of Clay County residents, as well as others in the state of Missouri.

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