



State Historical Society of Missouri Launches 2019-20 African-American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO, Sept. 3, 2019 – Charles Nilon, Ph.D., professor of Urban Wildlife Management at the MU School of Natural Resources, will explore the topic “Nearby Nature in North City St. Louis: Black Residents, Nature and Contested Green Space” as part of the African-American Experience in Missouri Lecture Series. A reception and lecture by Nilon will be held Sept. 17, 7 p.m., at the Center for Missouri Studies, 605 Elm St., Columbia, Missouri. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will be held a half-hour before the lecture.

Professor Nilon’s lecture will look at how the North Riverfront Trail and the Green City Coalition have sought to engage North City residents in conservation projects focused on green spaces. Nilon will explore how green spaces have been shaped by two legacies: formal green spaces associated with parks, cemeteries, and private streets that reflect the goals of pre-World War II city leaders, business people, planners and residents; and informal green spaces created by urban renewal, population declines, and home abandonment since the 1950s.

The lecture series began in 2016 to offer the public a new understanding of present-day Missouri by learning about the history of African-Americans within the state. It is sponsored by the State Historical Society of Missouri’s Center for Missouri Studies; the University of Missouri Division of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity; and the Missouri Humanities Council.

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