



Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Emancipation Day or Black Independence Day, recognizes and celebrates the end of slavery in the United States. Although the Emancipation Proclamation was enacted January 1, 1863 freeing all enslaved people in Confederate States, not everyone was immediately freed. In Texas, one of the westernmost Confederate States, slavery continued due to a lack of significant Union troop presence. It was not until 2 ½ years later on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1865 when Union Troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas and announced the Civil War ended as well as slavery.

Texans began celebrating Juneteenth in 1866 and over time the acknowledgements and celebrations have spread across the country. On January 1, 1980 Juneteenth became a Texas State Holiday. In 2003, Juneteenth gained State recognition here in Missouri.

The City of Columbia, Parks and Recreation, will celebrate Juneteenth this year with a Juneteenth Block Party and guided tours of the African American Heritage Trail provided by Regional Economic Development, Inc. For more information, please see below.

# MU Joins City of Columbia's Juneteenth Celebration

***Save the date for Saturday, June 19 from 12-2 p.m.***

Mark your calendars! Columbia Parks and Recreation will host a Juneteenth Block Party at Douglass Park, 400 N. Providence. The Juneteenth event will take place Saturday, June 19 from 12-2 p.m.

The block party will feature music from a live DJ, food, inflatable, balloon animals, yard games, and community organization tables. The Juneteenth aspect of the event will include informative handouts, gift bags for the kids, music and discussions, and information on the Black history of Columbia.

There will be a guided tour of the African American Heritage Trail provided by Regional Economic Development Inc. The tour will begin in Douglass Park at 10 a.m. and will conclude at Douglass by 12 p.m.

Juneteenth and the trail tour are free and all are welcome. For more information, please contact 573.874.7460 or [Jay.Bradley@como.gov](mailto:Jay.Bradley@como.gov). Read more [here](#). All are welcome to attend!

<https://diversity.missouri.edu/2021/mu-joins-city-of-columbias-juneteenth-celebration/>

## African American Heritage Trail

The African American Heritage Trail is a two-mile urban trail in the heart of Columbia, Mo. The trail honors local Black people and institutions from the city's first 200 years.

For much of its 200 years, Columbia was two cities divided by race. During most of those decades, Blacks were not allowed to shop in white-owned stores, attend their schools and churches, or receive services from most white professionals such as doctors and lawyers. As a result, "The Other Columbia" materialized. It was largely independent from the rest of the city and was located within about 30 square blocks on the north side of Broadway in central Columbia.

After the conclusion of the American Civil War in 1865, with Columbia mostly segregated, Blacks began building their own businesses and institutions where they

worked, shopped and socialized. The African American Heritage Trail is a tour of this historic area, which changed dramatically in the 1960s after a controversial program known as urban renewal eliminated many black-owned homes and enterprises.

The trail includes more than 20 informational markers highlighting people and institutions significant to the city's history. Completed in 2020, the project was spearheaded by the Sharp End Heritage Committee, in collaboration with Columbia Parks and Recreation, and with financial support from several local businesses and individuals.

REDI's offices are located on the land once home to Sharp End, the Black business and entertainment district that was demolished during urban renewal. REDI is proud to sponsor two markers along the African American Heritage Trail, one to honor entrepreneur Annie Fisher, and another to honor Clara Miles and the Miles Manor subdivision.

<https://www.columbiaredi.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/AAHT-brochure-8.5x11-view.pdf>