Spanish Lake originally began as a farming community until that changed in the 1950s when neighborhoods of tract housing were built. As an unincorporated area in St. Louis County, it was never a "village" like Florissant or "town" like Ferguson. Today, Spanish Lake offers great sites and wild-life such as The Twillman House, Fort Bellefontaine, Spanish Lake Park, and Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Spanish Lake Community Association takes care of community engagement activities and fosters a welcoming environment for residents and visitors.

Engage. Empower. Unite for a better Spanish Lake.

Historic Route:

Start (Green Dot): Fort Bellefontaine: 13002 Bellefontaine Road, Saint Louis, MO 63138

Location B: Twillman House: 11840 Bellefontaine Road, Spanish Lake, MO 63138

Location C: Larimore House: 11475 Lilac Ave, St. Louis, MO 63138

Location D: Chitwood-Prigge House: 750 Prigge Road, Saint Louis, MO 63138

Location E: Columbia Bottom: 801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO, 63138

Finish: Spanish Lake Park: 12500 Spanish Pond Rd, Saint Louis, MO 63138-3346

G.R.O.W. Spanish Lake is a Gateway Greening member community garden on a sustainable farm in Spanish Lake. It was established in March 2019. This past year we have grown organic food for 30+ community members. We take pride in our name: G~row R~elationships & O~pportunites W~ithin Spanish Lake.

Spanish Lake

Contacts

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Twillman House

German immigrant Johann Heinrich built the Twillman House in 1870. The infrastructure consisted of handmade brick and Mississippi River limestone, making the house unique in its construction materials in the 19th century. Twillman's descendants continued to inhabit the house until 1945. The house was purchased by Carl and Mary Plith and converted into Meadowlark Restaurant. Soon after, John and Mary Spiller purchased the property and opened Old Homestead Restaurant in 1974. The Spanish Lake Community Association took over the house in 2005 and started to utilize the Twillman House as a community center for current residents of Spanish Lake. (Picture above)

Spanish Lake Park

Conventional folklore relates the name Spanish Lake, originally called Spanish Pond, to the home built by Spanish Governor Trudeau in Upper Louisiana. It was not until the late nineteenth century when the federal and county government bought the property, added 14 acres, and transformed the land into the hidden gem we know today. Spanish Lake Park is now a beautiful area to walk the trails, go fishing, and play on their two playgrounds. (Pictured below)

Larimore House

This exquisite two story brick home was built in 1858 by Wilson Larimore. Larimore owned 2,000 acres of the surrounding land and became a St. Louis pioneer in steam-powered agricultural productivity. At the time, the expensive Italianate architectural features indicated Larimore's wealth and status. In 1989, Larimore house was added to the National Registry of Historic Places, and in 1996, St. Louis County named the house a Landmark and Preservation Area. Today, Larimore house's historic Italianate style and picturesque garden, making it a popular wedding venue. (Pictured below)

Chitwood-Prigge House

Richard Chitwood built the Chitwood-Prigge house five years before the Louisiana Purchase through the Spanish Land Grant in 1798. Chitwood served as a Major in the War of 1812 and Justice of the Peace from 1812 to 1818. The dog-trot style log cabin served as Chitwood's home until his death in 1822. The cabin went through the hands of several short-term owners before being bought by Charles F. Prigge, a German immigrant, who was a prominent social and political figure in the area. Prigge restored the cabin and lived there until his death in 1884.

Columbia Bottom

Originally a small town known as Columbia, this urban conservation area is located at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers in north St. Louis County. (Spanish Lake) Containing over 4,000 acres of land, this area includes a view of more than 6.5 miles of river frontage, around 800 acres of bottomland forest, and a 110-acre island. Currently, Columbia Bottom offers a variety of recreational opportunities with trails and wildlife viewing. There are also game opportunities for hunting, trapping, and fishing. It is one of the many stops along the Great River Road which stretches from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Fort Bellefontaine

Lt. Colonel Jacob Kingsbury built Fort Belle Fontaine in 1805 making the trading fort the first U.S. military installation west of the Mississippi River. The fort remained in its original location until 1808 when it was relocated atop the bluff in 1811 where it functioned as a key trading checkpoint for American Indians, Western frontier settlers, trappers, and traders. The most notable people to have visited the fort were the Lewis and Clark expedition on September 22, 1806. In 1936, the Works Progress Administration built the grand limestone staircase which is now one of the main attractions. (Pictured below)