

Kerri Cornine

Major: Horticulture emphasis in Landscape Design
University: University of Missouri-Columbia
Faculty Mentor: MaryAnn Gowdy
Mentor Department: Horticulture
Funded by: McNair Scholars Program

A proposal for the development of historic Maplewood gardens-- An interpretive design of the Victorian era

Landscape architecture is the design of outdoor spaces in order to create an environment for people to enjoy. The discipline includes enhancing daily functions, preservation and conservation, and creating aesthetic value. In all design situations, the best solutions are those in which the designer is able to analyze and gain an understanding of the past and present with regards to the people and issues of a specific environment. Maplewood is a historic home built in 1870 during the Victorian era in Columbia, Missouri. The home and grounds were purchased by the City of Columbia in 1970. The area was named Nifong Park once the home was preserved in 1976, but the grounds were never accurately restored. The emphasis of this project is to research the history of the family that lived at Maplewood and the garden design theories of the Victorian period. The Boone County Historical Society's photographs and documents were utilized to discover what gardens existed around the home and the specific plant species that were used in those designs. The Victorian era was researched to uncover landscape architectural principles and the major garden themes employed by people. A design concept was then created, with the intention to attract visitors, utilizing the information about the history of the environment. An integral component of this project is the interdisciplinary aspects. Visitors will be educated about the history of the place while enjoying the beautiful surroundings.