

**Record Series #:** 1121-064.09  
**Name:** Bacon Park and Sandfly Community Collection  
**Dates:** 2023  
**Extent/Size:** 1 folder (0.1 cubic feet)  
**Language:** English

***Neighborhood History:***

The Bacon Park and Sandfly communities extend over a large swath of Southeast Savannah. The boundaries of this neighborhood are Montgomery Cross Road on the south, Howard Foss Drive and Skidaway Drive on the east, Sallie Mood Drive on the west and Bacon Park Drive and Bona Bella Avenue on the north. Significant sports structures and parks are within this community including the Bacon Park Golf Course, Guy Minick Youth Sports Complex, Allen E. Paulson Sports Complex, Memorial Stadium, Chatham County Aquatic Center, Jennifer Ross Soccer Complex, Bacon Park Tennis Center and Lake Mayer. The Harry Truman Parkway and Casey Canal run through this neighborhood.

The land that makes up Bacon Park today was originally donated to Chatham County in 1875. One portion of this land was used as a prison farm known as the Brown Prison Farm or the County Farm. Set on 400 acres, the County and City sent prisoners to work out their sentences and it was called Brown Prison because of the color of the uniforms worn by guards and inmates. In 1946 the City stopped sending their prisoners there and the County closed the prison in the 1950s.

In 1925 a Bacon Park Commission was established to carry out the agreement between the County and City to use the second portion of this land for recreational use only. The land was incorporated into City limits in 1961. The Bacon Park Golf Course was designed by Donald Ross and opened in 1926 originally as a 72-hole course. A portion of the course was closed in 1940 and with additional holes added later, it is now a 27-hole course. Over the years, this area has developed with several sports complex to accommodate, football, soccer, softball, baseball, tennis, hockey, golfing and other various field sports.

The formerly enslaved individuals from the nearby Wormsloe Plantation were the main establishers of the Sandfly community. They created a haven for African American families to thrive and their descendants still occupy this area today. They fought several big chain stores from establishing themselves in the area, fighting all the way to the Georgia Supreme Court. Unfortunately, the community lost and Wal-Mart and Sam's Club were completed in 2002 and 2005 on Montgomery Cross Road. However, the community continues to preserve their history often holding an Annual Oral History Festival near the Sandfly historic marker. Parts of the Sandfly community are in unincorporated Chatham County.

***Scope and Content:***

The Bacon Park and Sandfly Community Collection contains prompt cards from area residents with reflections on the Bacon Park and Sandfly neighborhood. These cards were collected from area residents at a Savannah Community Memory Project held in the Crusader Community Center, in the White Bluff neighborhood.

***System of Arrangement and Ordering:***

The files are arranged by subject.

***Conditions Governing Access:***

None

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***Access Points:***

Neighborhoods – Bacon Park  
Neighborhoods – Sandfly

***Preferred Citation:***

Record Series 1121-064.09, Bacon Park and Sandfly Community Collection. City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

***Collected on:***

January 20 and 21, 2023

***Processed by:***

M. Kerkhoff, March 2023

**Record Series 1121-064.09 Bacon Park and Sandfly Community Collection**

*Inventory:*

**Physical Files [housed in Box 1121-064-002]**

<i>Folder #</i>	<i>Description</i>
1121-064.09_001	Prompt cards with written reflections from area residents, 2023