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Larry A. McClellan
Governors State University, mcclellan.larry@gmail.com

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Park Forest South: History and Development, An Annotated Bibliography

Larry A. McClellan
Governors State University
Park Forest South, Illinois
CPL Bibliography No. 23

PARK FOREST SOUTH: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT,
An Annotated Bibliography

by

Larry A. McClellan
University Professor of Urban Studies
College of Cultural Studies
Governors State University
Park Forest South, Illinois

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Larry A. McClellan
Park Forest South: History and Development, by Larry A. McClellan, Governors State University, Park Forest South, Illinois. A comprehensive bibliography of print materials on the emergence and growth of the village as a federal "Title VII New Community" and as a racially integrated suburb. This includes citations from 1962 through mid-1979 and a narrative introduction for each section: Introduction; Newspapers and Newsletters—Local, Metropolitan and National; The Planning Process; The History and Development of Park Forest South—Pre-New Town (prior to 1970), New Town Development (1970-74), Restructuring (1975-mid-78), Renewed Development (mid-1978—present); and Integration Policies and Issues in Park Forest South.
PARK FOREST SOUTH: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

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Larry A. McClellan
Governors State University
Park Forest South, Illinois

INTRODUCTION

The history and development of Park Forest South have included several unique elements. Since 1970, the Village has been the site of a federally-designated "Title VII New Community" project which has experienced a full array of successes and disasters. In 1970, the private Park Forest South Development Company entered into a project agreement with the New Communities Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to create a new town in Park Forest South. Thus, for nine years the Village has been in the midst of development and controversy, the investment and loss of millions of dollars, the shining and dimming of new towns in federal policy, and a host of other issues related to that process.

In addition, since its incorporation in 1967, the Village of Park Forest South has been racially integrated and developing policies and methods in regard to fair housing and the affirmative marketing of real estate. The Village has worked closely with other Illinois communities and has been involved nationally in the policy debates concerning suburban integration.

The Village has also experienced classic confrontations in regard to the "suburban" issues of environmental protection, growth control, and the pressures for professionalism in local government.

Although the community has only 6,000 residents, it has attracted significant attention—primarily because of its relation to the New Communities program and its experience with racial integration. This bibliography is an effort to identify major materials in print that concern Park Forest South (PFS) and a guide for planners, researchers, and others interested in PFS, new communities, suburban integration, and other issues that have been faced in PFS.

PFS is approximately 32 miles south of Chicago's Loop. The incorporated area of the Village is south of the Cook County line in eastern Will County. Interstate 57 is its western border and it is bisected by the main line of the Illinois Central-Gulf Railroad with the final station of the ICG commuter line in PFS. It is separated from the Village of Park Forest by a large area of regional open space known as Thorn Creek Woods.
Brief introductory comments and the references are presented as follows:

**Newspapers and Newsletters**
- **Local**
  - Metropolitan and National

**The Planning Process**

**The History and Development of Park Forest South**
- Pre-New Town (prior to 1970)
- Restructuring (1975-mid-1978)
- Renewed Development (Mid-1978-present)

**Integration Policies and Issues in Park Forest South**

**NEWSPAPERS AND NEWSLETTERS**

**Local:**

The PFS area is served by two publishers. The Williams Press of Chicago Heights has the Star-Tribune publications with separate editions for different suburbs or clusters of suburbs. These are published semi-weekly. Prior to February, 1972, PFS news was generally covered in the Park Forest Star. From February 27, 1972 (Vol. 1, No. 1) through April, 1977, there was a Park Forest South Star. From May 5, 1977 until the present, this edition has been continued as the Crete-Park Forest South Star.

Russell Publications of Peotone, Illinois, has a series of weekly papers for the small communities of eastern Will County. The Park Forest South Post was published from July, 1971, through July, 1977. From July, 1977, until the present, local news has been covered by the Monee Monitor.

From 1972 through 1975, the planning and development controversies received extensive coverage in the PFS Star. This, along with the PFS Post, are extremely valuable and detailed local resources.

Another important local resource is the newsletter that was published monthly by a citizens' organization that began as the PFS Community Information Center. (It was popularly known simply as "CIC"). This group later merged with the South Suburban Housing Center. They published:

**CIC News** -- Vol. 1, No. 1 (June, 1976) to Vol. 2, No. 12 (December, 1977)

With Vol. 3 it became the Park Forest South Newsletter of the South Suburban Housing Center -- Vol. 3, No. 1 (January, 1978) to Vol. 3, No. 10 (December, 1978)

A similar community newsletter started after the final issue of the above. It is called The Placemark and is published monthly by The Place, a Center for Youth and Human Services in Park Forest South.
Metropolitan and National:

For several years, the Chicago Sun-Times and the now defunct Daily News published a Suburban Week supplement, and the Chicago Tribune published a Suburban Trib supplement. These have carried occasional articles on PFS which are not fully cataloged here.

Because of metropolitan and national interest in issues involving PFS, this bibliography seeks to identify relevant articles in the metropolitan papers and the New York Times and other major papers.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Village of PFS and the New Community project have undergone several major planning efforts.

1970 -- the original Comprehensive Plan with population projections of 110,000 by 1990.

1973 -- Master Plan Program for the Village of PFS
Source documents: Multi-part "Sketch Plan for PFS" by Max Anderson Associates.

1974 -- The Joint Planning Process conducted by the Village and the developers with extensive citizen participation resulted in the three volumes of the "Park Forest South Comprehensive Plan." In this process the population projection was approximately 76,000.

1976-79 Current comprehensive plan development based on Volume B -- Objectives and Criteria, which was formally adopted as a planning guide by the Village in 1976. Current population projections are in the range of 30 - 45,000, with various source documents and maps in the process of publication.

It should be noted that some Village documents indicate an original planning concept in 1967 that envisioned an eventual population of 25,000.

In addition, it would be useful to consult two major planning and evaluation studies commissioned by HUD's New Communities Administration (now known as the New Communities Development Corporation):

2. The planning and community development firm of Raymond, Parish, Pine and Weiner in conjunction with Edward Logue engaged in a detailed evaluation of local government capacities and options for continued development. From their work in 1977 and 1978, there should be reports and recommendations available from the New Communities Development Corporation.
THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PARK FOREST SOUTH

The Pre-New Town Period (prior to 1970):

PFS was incorporated in 1967 with 1,050 residents in what was known as the Woodhill subdivision. Other than official Village records, relatively little information is available.

The WoodHill Herald was published monthly from February, 1962, through July, 1967. Few copies of this are available. Development problems in Wood Hill, the involvement of Nathan Manilow and the Park Forest Development Company, and the incorporation of the Village received scattered coverage in the Park Forest Star and a weekly known as the Park Forest Reporter. The Crete Record (Russell Publications) carried a regular column on Wood Hill and on PFS. Issues of The Crete Record in November, 1967, covered the details of incorporation and the initiation of the new village government.

In addition, see:


This was printed without footnotes in the PFS Post on August 19, 1971, page 8; August 26, page 4; and September 2, page 12.

Village of Park Forest South. PFS, 1968 (?).

A pamphlet published by the Village government outlining "History in Brief," "Village Government," and "Ordinances of Immediate Interest to Residents." It is undated.


The PFS project was first approved on July 1, 1970 under the Title IV New Communities Program of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. The project was converted in March, 1971, to coverage under the Title VII New Communities Program of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970. It has been commonly known as one of the "Title VII New Communities." (See Mields, Federally Assisted New Communities, pages 21-38.)

The material in this section is organized as follows:

Books
Articles
Newspapers
Pamphlets and Brochures
Brochures of Park Forest South Developers, Inc.
Theses
Documents and Reports
Other Materials
In the following, the materials in the books almost all reflect the formation and initial optimism of the national program. The University of North Carolina materials are all in this section since their studies and interviews in PFS were in this time period.

Books:


Section on PFS, pages 80-85. Generalized map of the plan for PFS, pages 22-23.


Results of a three year (1972-75) study by the University of North Carolina of the federal New Communities program. Extensive information on PFS with comparative information on the neighboring villages of Park Forest and Richton Park.


Describes new towns in the United States. The information of PFS is dated and uneven.


Reviews all the federally assisted new communities. The PFS Development Plan is summarized, pages 245-278.

Contains a section on Thorn Creek Woods noting the effects of PFS development.


**Articles:**


Discusses Title VII new towns and has development profiles and maps for PFS, Cedar-Riverside, and Jonathan.


A general introduction to PFS with illustrations.


A general introduction to new towns, including a brief comparison of PFS and Park Forest.


The entire issue is on new towns. Page 93 has map and main elements in the original plan for PFS.


Newspapers:

The sentence descriptions are those supplied in the indexes of the newspapers and in the New York Times Information Bank. These are from 1970 to 1974.

Chicago Daily News:


"Park Forest South Area doubled by annexation"; October 30, 1970.

"Park Forest South plans debentures"; March 5, 1971.

"Park Forest South expansion planned"; November 19, 1971.

"Hospitals planned for Schaumburg and Park Forest South"; July 22, 1972.

Chicago Sun Times:

"U. S. backs $30 million loan for Park Forest South"; July 2, 1970.

"Lewis Manilow announces Thorn Creek Woods preservation plan"; July 22, 1970.

"Thorn Creek Woods to be left undeveloped"; March 1, 1971.

"Park Forest South, described"; March 7, 1971.

"Developers interview residents in Park Forest South"; April 4, 1971.

"Park Forest South on the road to self-sufficiency"; May 21, 1972.

"City convenience, suburban charm, Park Forest South described"; March 3, 1974.


This article, headlined "New Towns go to seed, default," was a major factor in organizing a citizens' response to the problems of the developers.

"700 acres of Park Forest South land sold to cover loan interest"; December 13, 1974.

Chicago Today:

"Park Forest South, described"; April 7, 1972.
Chicago Tribune:

"Special supplement views new town, Park Forest South"; January 30, 1972, sec. 7E.


"Development of Park Forest South jeopardized by loan default"; December 13, 1974, sec. 1, p. 1.

"Park Forest South officials react to Dec. 13 article; village still viable"; December 14, 1974, sec. 2, p. 7.

"Developers of Park Forest South face financial squeeze"; December 15, 1974, sec. 1, p. 8.

New York Times:

"HUD grants $30 million in loan guarantees to Park Forest South"; July 2, 1970, p. 35.

Suburban Week (supplement to the Chicago Daily News and Sun Times):


"Park Forest South goes to town, Park Forest South, described"; July 24-25, 1974, p. 8.

Washington Post:

"W. Nicoson heads NCA, program and 6 projects discussed"; January 1, 1972, p. 8.

Two newspaper sources of particular interest are:


   This is an examination of political and communications problems among the developers, HUD, local government, and citizens.

2. In 1974, the PFS Star carried a front page series on the operations of the Village government. Researched and written by reporters Charles Rosenberger and Carolyn Pressler, the series appeared on May 23, May 26, May 30, June 2 and June 6, 1974.

Pamphlets and Brochures:


Prepared by the Service League of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center South and the PFS Steering Committee for Community Health Planning. 33 pages.


"Published as a Community Service, Public Relations Department, Village of Park Forest South." Contains information on volunteers in the local government, "parks and rec," "managerial gov't", "PUDS", and village activities. 6 pages.

Inter Faith--Park Forest South. A planning report published by the Inter Faith Council, September, 1974, mimeographed, 10 pages.

Inter Faith welcomes you to Park Forest South. A description of Inter Faith and local Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish congregations published by the Inter Faith Council, 1974, 4 pages.


An introduction to history, government, services, activities, etc. 33 pages.


Prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee on Community Information Services. Information on Villages commissions, youth, athletic, civic and religious organizations, newspapers, local schools, etc.
Brochures of Park Forest South Developers, Inc.:

Governors Gateway Industrial Park. (1970?)

10" x 12", multi-color introduction with map of the industrial parcels.

How to Start Your Own Town. (1970?)

20 pages on the concept of a new town with a fold-out map of the general plan for PFS.

New Directions: A Visitor's Guide to a New Way of Life in Park Forest South. (1971?)

A general introduction with a fold-out map.

Park Forest South: A Whole New Town. (January, 1972)

20 pages, tabloid size, multi-color, used as a newspaper supplement. A detailed introduction to the plans for the Village of PFS.


10" x 12", multi-color "Visitor's Kit"--a general introduction to the environment with proposed educational, commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation advantages.


Small brochure used as general introduction.

Theses:

Eiseman, Herbert A. Citizen Involvement in the Affairs of Local Communities with Particular Emphasis on Park Forest South, Illinois. For the M.A. in the Department of Urban Studies, Roosevelt University, September, 1972.

Stowe, Eric L. The Role of Local Government in the New Community Development Process. For the Ph.D. in Public Administration, Northern Illinois University, December, 1974.

Explores the interactions between local government and developers in PFS and in West Vally New Town in Kane County, Illinois. Available on microfilm.

Documents and Reports:

Burke, David L. Park Forest South: A Critical Overview. (May, 1970)

An 8 page evaluation report prepared for "presentation to Mr. Lewis Manilow and his associates," on planning and quality of life considerations.

The first of a series of working papers prepared in cooperation with the New Communities Administration.


This includes a case study on planning for schools in PFS, pages 7-34.


Other Materials:

These audio and video cassettes are on file at Governors State University.


Restructuring Development (1975 to mid-1978):

A mass meeting was held on December 2, 1974, at which the developers formally announced the termination of active operations and outlined their problems. The Village formed a citizen action committee and a new Village President and four new Trustees were elected a few months later, in April, 1975. These steps marked the start of a new, aggressive role by Village government in the whole development process and with related issues.

The material in this section is organized as follows:

- Articles
- Newspapers
- Pamphlets and Brochures
- Documents and Reports
- Other Materials

Articles:

"Can New Towns Survive the Economic Crunch?" Business Week, no. 2367 (February 10, 1975), pp. 43-44.

Describes the economic problems on new towns, with reference to PFS.


Description of PFS industrial park with cover picture.


Discusses problems of development in PFS and notes differences between building new towns in the U.S. and other countries.


An examination of the apparent failure of the New Communities program and problems with the Republican Administration's implementation of it.


2 page summary on PFS plus a companion article on Columbia, Maryland.

Newspapers:

The sentence descriptions are those supplied in the indexes of the newspapers and in the New York Times Information Bank. These are from 1975 to mid-1978.

**Chicago Daily News:**

"Park Forest South awaits delivery of promises from Washington"; January 4, 1975.

"Lewis Manilow disenchanted with bureaucrats"; September 16, 1975.

"HUD announces decision to refinance Park Forest South"; September 28, 1976, p. 1.

"Park Forest South may run HUD project"; January 19, 1978.

**Chicago Sun Times:**

"Plans for hospital in Park Forest South shelved"; February 26, 1975, p. 3.

"HUD pays loan interest in Park Forest South"; September 16, 1975.
"Park Forest South still has spirit"; May 3, 1976.

"Park Forest South gets funds to acquire woods tract"; November 11, 1976, p. 54.

"HUD to acquire PFS development firm"; November 23, 1976, p. 16.

"'New Towns' scrutinized; project here seen viable"; January 19, 1978, p. 11.

Chicago Tribune:


"Progress of new towns, Park Forest South, Illinois"; September 25, 1975, sec. N7, p. 1. Headline for this article was "'New Town' is healthy baby tho not a prodigy."

"Park Forest South President delivers state of the village speech"; November 6, 1975, sec. N7, p. 1.

"U.S. anticipates renewed construction in PFS development"; September 29, 1976, sec. 6, p. 11.

"Illinois developer negotiates with HUD on PFS takeover"; November 28, 1976, sec. 1, p. 39. Headline for this article was "Dream Town turns nightmare in PFS."


Economist of London:

"Description of new communities program and its problems, and HUD plans to revitalize several new towns"; December 25, 1976, p. 25.

Suburban Week (supplement to the Chicago Daily News and Sun Times):

"HUD announces that no additional new town projects will be accepted"; January 23-24, 1975, p. 8.

"Park Forest South Development Co. defaults on loan interest"; September 24-25, 1975, p. 28.
Wall Street Journal:

"HUD freezes funds, seeks to help existing new towns"; January 13, 1975, p. 4.

"HUD plans to abandon some new communities and help others, comments from James Dausch"; September 29, 1976, p. 3.

Pamphlets and Brochures:


Multi-color brochure on business and industrial opportunities in the federally related new communities. 2 page summary on Governors Gateway Industrial Park with map.

Documents and Reports:


Summary of various statistics on the Village of PFS.

McClellan, Larry A. The State of the Village of Park Forest South. A report by the Village President to residents and friends of the Village, December 6, 1976.


Other Materials:

Jackson, Shirley A. A "New Town": The Fantasy and The Reality, A Study of Park Forest South. Park Forest South: Governors State University, June, 1977. (Unpublished paper available at Governors State University.)

A graduate paper giving a generalized overview of issues in PFS in 1975 and 1976.
Terrific New Town Newsletter. Published by the Terrific New Town (TNT) Committee of the Village of PFS in February (?), 1975. Only one issue, circulated to all residents.

Tick, Marvin J. Park Forest South Development Analysis: Present and Future Village Development Capabilities. Submitted for Master's Project Credit to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, July, 1977. (Unpublished paper available at Governors State University.)

Renewed Development (Mid-1978 to Mid-1979):

Toward the middle of 1978 it became clear to the Village government that development momentum was returning in spite of the slow progress in resolving the final status of the federally owned lands and utility company. The Village had been issuing Industrial Revenue Bonds, was completing its own comprehensive plan, and had an active Development and Redevelopment Commission working on commercial activity.

For an overview on the status of the New Communities program at this period, see particularly:


The material in this section is organized as follows:

Newspapers
Pamphlets and Brochures

Newspapers:

The sentence descriptions are those supplied in the indexes of the newspapers and in the New York Times Information Bank. These are from mid-1978 through mid-1979.

Chicago Sun Times:

"PFS to carry on without HUD"; September 21, 1978, p. 20.

Chicago Tribune:

"PFS's delayed 'boom' will still happen, says village chief"; May 28, 1978, sec. 5, p. 2.

INTEGRATION POLICIES AND ISSUES IN PFS

Since its inception, PFS has been a racially integrated community. From a few black families in 1967, it is now estimated to have over 30% minorities. A Human Relations Commission and fair housing ordinance were established in 1968. The Title VII New Communities project, in language and intent, sought the development of a racially integrated community. For a summary of these developments, see "A History of Housing Integration in PFS," by Kathy Cardona, in Onderdonk, et.al., listed below.

Over several years, the Village of PFS joined with Park Forest in court actions against real estate persons who fostered illegal steering. In November, 1977, PFS adopted an Affirmative Marketing Ordinance. This action led to complaints by realtors and an involved process that demonstrated the complexity of racial issues in housing and HUD's difficulty in responding to that complexity. A "Housing Discrimination Complaint" was lodged against the Village by a local realtor on March 13, 1978, in reference to the Village's Affirmative Marketing Ordinance. HUD completed inquiries and in November, 1978, determined not to "resolve the matter" of the complaint. Many of the references here reflect this affirmative marketing controversy.
The material in this section is organized as follows:

**Articles**

Newspapers
Documents and Reports
Resolutions and Ordinances

**Articles:**


**Newspapers:**

**Chicago Sun Times:**


**Chicago Tribune:**


"Racial 'steering': Big suburban issue of the 80's"; May 6, 1979, sec. 2, p. 12.

**New York Times:**

"Integrated suburbs now fearful of not drawing enough whites"; April 9, 1979, p. Al.

**Wall Street Journal:**

"Urban irony: some integrated towns draw fire for efforts to keep racial balance"; January 8, 1979, p. 1.
Documents and Reports:


(The records of the Village contain a lengthy series of documents and memoranda leading to the eventual adoption of the Affirmative Marketing Ordinance on November 22, 1977.)

Answer to Housing Discrimination Complaint. Submitted to the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development. April 17, 1978. 6 pages.

This is a sworn statement refuting the charges in the complaint and explaining the position of the Village of PFS.


This is a sworn statement discussing the historic patterns of racial resegregation and its impact on PFS.


An examination of policy issues, housing market forces, histories of integration in Park Forest and PFS, and proposed model documents.


Resolutions and Ordinances:


Ordinances adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of PFS, in the order of their adoption:


Ordinance No. 380 added the affirmative marketing policy and procedures to the Fair Housing Ordinance and Ordinance No. 408 repealed No. 380.

Research Note: The research for this bibliography led to the identification and preservation of a variety of documents and other materials which might otherwise have been lost. These will be found in the Library at Governors State University, the archives of the Village of PFS, and the PFS Public Library. Particular thanks to the Library staff at GSU, student assistant Judy DuBridge, former Village planner Craig Hullinger, and the Community History program of the Newberry Library in Chicago which supported some of the time for locating and preserving these materials.

L. A. McClellan
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