

From Ralph Lamonda on Wakefield Chapel Road. leralph@yahoo.com
Submitted by email on Jan. 22, 2022.

We moved here in the fall of 1974, so it's been almost 50 years (That sounds scary). Change occurs so gradually that it's somewhat of an effort to try to recall what Canterbury Woods was like back then as compared to the present. What hasn't changed is that it remains one of the better neighborhoods in northern VA in terms of residents and home quality, else we would have moved long ago.

Regarding traffic, Braddock Rd was 2 lanes, as was the Beltway on the Virginia side, though expansion was just underway. Beltway speed limit was 70 mph. I was once able to back out of my driveway on Wakefield Chapel without having to say a prayer.

I don't recall if there was a playground or basketball court at the park on Wakefield Chapel Rd & Braddock, but that commuter parking lot certainly didn't exist.

I am most familiar with the trail, at least the section between the playground and the bridge across the stream leading to the pool, as I have walked it almost daily with my dogs. The trail was a lot narrower and the stream was so narrow you could almost leap over it. Erosion has taken an awful toll. The trail was also a pine forest. Unfortunately, the pines gradually disappeared to be replaced with scrub vegetation and bamboo. It's still a pleasant walk though, except for the mud after a heavy rain.

The homes haven't changed much except that many residents have expanded their driveways to accommodate additional cars as families have grown, and almost everyone has added a deck out back. For the most part, however, it's still looks pretty much as it did in the 70s.