

## Highlights of Woodley Gardens:

Model Homes at 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9  
Nelson Street

Earliest Neighborhood Homes on  
Crocus and Blossom Drives

Woodley Gardens Park

Clubhouse and Pool

Woodley Gardens Elementary  
(Rockville Senior Center)

Woodley Gardens Shopping Center

Modern Homes at 900 Azalea Drive  
and 803 Woodley Drive

Modern Homes at 794, 796 798, and  
800 Nelson Street



Baseball in Woodley Gardens Park, circa 1980

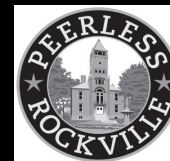
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## Peerless Places



Concept Watercolor of "The Edgewood", circa 1960

## Tour of Woodley Gardens



Preserving  
Rockville's  
Heritage

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# Woodley Gardens: A Distinctive “Pre-Planned” Community

Despite its Colonial look, Woodley Gardens is a “modern” neighborhood that bears the distinction of being one of Rockville’s earliest pre-planned communities. At Woodley Gardens Colonial-inspired brick houses and apartments sit on streets with floral names such as Azalea, Crocus, Lily and Carnation. The neighborhood with its mix of homes, townhouses and co-operative apartments also boasts recreational and community amenities not found in most earlier housing developments. Monroe Warren Sr. and Monroe Warren Jr. developed Woodley Gardens using an innovative planning approach, which combined multiple housing types, with open space for natural features and recreation, and added a community shopping area.

In the early 1960s, veteran builder Monroe Warren Sr. known for earlier apartment and housing developments in Washington D.C. as well as the Rockcrest neighborhood in Rockville, began construction on the western edge of Rockville. Here he and his son strove to create a community of high quality “prestige” homes. The conventional architectural style of the homes extended throughout the community and with the inclusion of tennis courts, baseball fields and an Olympic-sized swimming pool, the Warrens likened their development to a country club. The community amenities proved attractive to homebuyers. Children quickly filled the neighborhood as the first families arrived in 1961.



## #1 & #2 Model Homes and Earliest Streets

The Warrens introduced prospective homebuyers to their housing styles with model homes along Nelson Street at West Montgomery Avenue. The choices included a large-box colonial, a smaller colonial, a split-level with three bedrooms, a split-level with four bedrooms, and a rambler. Nelson Street in the early 1960s went only as far as Crocus Drive, requiring residents to backtrack to Beall Avenue to get into downtown Rockville.

## #3 Woodley Gardens Park

Dedicated in 1964, the Woodley Gardens Park encompasses about 15% of the total neighborhood property. The park contributed to the country club feel with recreational areas to accommodate and interest all ages. These include playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and open space to run.



## #4 Clubhouse and Pool

The Warrens cemented the country club atmosphere of their development with a neighborhood pool. Open only to residents in its early days, the pool fostered a sense of community and fun. The clubhouse architecture mirrored the homes, with the same red brick exterior and white columns. A cupola on top formalized the building, mirroring Mount Vernon.

## #5 Woodley Gardens Elementary School

Woodley Gardens initially supported its own elementary school, located in the back of the neighborhood. As the neighborhood’s first generation of children matured, children from other parts of Rockville were bused in. Further declines in enrollment caused the school to close in 1979. The City of Rockville, in 1982, renovated the building into the Senior Center.

## #6 Woodley Gardens Shopping Center

The Woodley Gardens shopping center set the community apart from earlier residential developments. Warren integrated the shopping district into his plans, placing it within walking distance of the homes. The center first opened with a Safeway grocery store. With the use of red brick, white columns and a clock tower roof detail the shopping center architecture mimics the Colonial style of the community.

## #7 & #8 Modern Homes

Two modern homes sit nestled in the community on the corner of Azalea and Woodley Drives. The homes were designed by local architects John Wilmot Sr. and David Porter in the late 1960s. Porter along with Rolando Sanz also designed the four additional modern houses along Nelson Street, which were built in 1974.

