

## Natural Resources - Silver Spring

### Parks

Rock Creek Park passes along the west side of Silver Spring, and offers hiking trails, picnic grounds, and bicycling on weekends, when its main road, Beach Drive, is mostly closed to motor vehicles.

Sligo Creek Park follows Sligo Creek through Silver Spring; it offers hiking trails, tennis courts, playgrounds and bicycling. Biking is easier on weekends, when parts of Sligo Creek Parkway are closed to autos. The bike trails are winding and slower than most in the region.



Acorn Park

Acorn Park in the downtown area of Silver Spring is believed to be the site of the original "silver spring".

The 14.5-acre Jessup Blair Park was recently renovated and has a soccer field, tennis courts, basketball courts, and picnic area.

Brookside Gardens is a 50-acre park within Wheaton Regional Park, in "greater" Silver Spring.

### Creeks

Sligo Creek is a tributary of the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River in Maryland. (The Anacostia, in turn, feeds into the Potomac River and eventually empties into the Atlantic Ocean by way of the Chesapeake Bay.) The creek is approximately 9.1 miles long. Over the years, Sligo Creek has served many purposes for area residents, including powering grist mills and as a drinking water source. In the Takoma Park section of the creek (near Washington Adventist University), the remains of a dam and building foundations for the Sligo Creek Waterworks can still be seen. From 1900 to 1930, the waterworks served the city of Takoma Park, as well as Silver Spring, Kensington, and Bethesda. Another dam, located where Flower Avenue crosses Sligo Creek, served Sligo Mill which was located where New Hampshire Avenue crosses Sligo Creek. Sligo Mill was built in 1812. In addition to milling grain for local farmers, Sligo Mill distilled whiskey. The mill was demolished in the 1920s.

