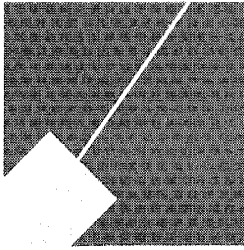


M-NCPPC



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

9500 Brunett Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

Item #14  
6/8/2006

May 26, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Montgomery County Planning Board

VIA: Mary R. Bradford, Director of Parks

FROM: Mimi Wang Feinstone, Special Assistant, Office of the Director of Parks

SUBJECT: Forest Glen-Dallas Avenue Neighborhood Park: Proposed Park Renaming  
Request to South Four Corners Neighborhood Park by the South Four Corners  
Citizens Association

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A request was received from David West, Vice President, South Four Corners Citizens Association, suggesting that Forest Glen-Dallas Avenue Neighborhood Park be renamed to South Four Corners Neighborhood Park. **Staff recommends APPROVAL of this request because the suggested name change continues to reflect a geographic location that is consistent with the 1985 Park Naming Policy and the Park is a Neighborhood Park “designed for the informal use by nearby residents.”**

Location: Looking from east to west along Forest Glen Road is the Forest Glen-Dallas Avenue Neighborhood Park (3.6 acres), the Margaret Schweinhaut Center Local Park (4.5 acres), and Argyle Local Park (8.7 acres), all of which front on Forest Glen Road to the north and I-495 to the south.

Updated 1998 Park Naming Policy: *Montgomery County parks and areas and facilities within parks are generally named for a geographic area or a natural historic feature, but, as appropriate, parks and areas and facilities within parks may be named to reflect local folk usage, or historic, material, or financial contributions to the commission, or persons of historic or outstanding civic service. Markers may be placed in parts and on park facilities honoring or memorializing individuals and organizations.*

Staff supports the requested name change because it continues to reflect a geographic area, albeit less specific than the current name, and is similar to the name of the North Four Corners Local Park to the north. If the subject Park included permitted fields, courts, shelters, etc., which would perhaps require those outside the immediate neighborhood to find, staff would be more concerned with the more general geographic name change to “South Four Corners Neighborhood Park.” However, since “Neighborhood or Local Parks are designed to serve the informal recreation needs of nearby residents” (staff emphasis), staff is less concerned about the requested change.

To clarify the policy for the South Four Corners Citizens Association, staff defines "folk usage" as the casual or informal name by which a park is known. A good example of "folk usage" of a park's name is "Candy Cane City" because of the candy striping on the play equipment rather than Meadowbrook Local Park. Another example of folk usage is "Fire Engine Park" because of the fire engine-shaped play equipment rather than the formal name of Upper Long Branch Neighborhood Park. Staff believes the Association's application includes an incorrect interpretation of the term "folk usage," and supports the request by giving examples of "public usage" or "citizen usage" of the Park. Legal Counsel concurs with staff's interpretation of "folk usage."

In conclusion, staff recommends APPROVAL of this request for three reasons: 1) the Park is a Neighborhood Park designed to serve the recreation needs of nearby residents; 2) the suggested name change continues to reflect a geographic location; and 3) the Park does not include any permitted uses that might require those living outside the immediate neighborhood to find the Park. If there had been permitted uses in the Park, staff would have more concerns about the Park name changing from a very specific location name to one that is less specific. Since that is not the case, staff recommends approval of this request.

If, however, the Planning Board believes the name change is not appropriate, staff would suggest that the Park's current name be clarified to "Forest Glen **Road** - Dallas Avenue Park," so there is no confusion that the Park is located on Forest Glen **Road** and not in the Forest Glen "area" of the County near the Forest Glen Metro.

A copy of the Commission's December 1985 "Park Naming Policy" and the Updated September 1998 policy and a list of other facilities named to date are attached.

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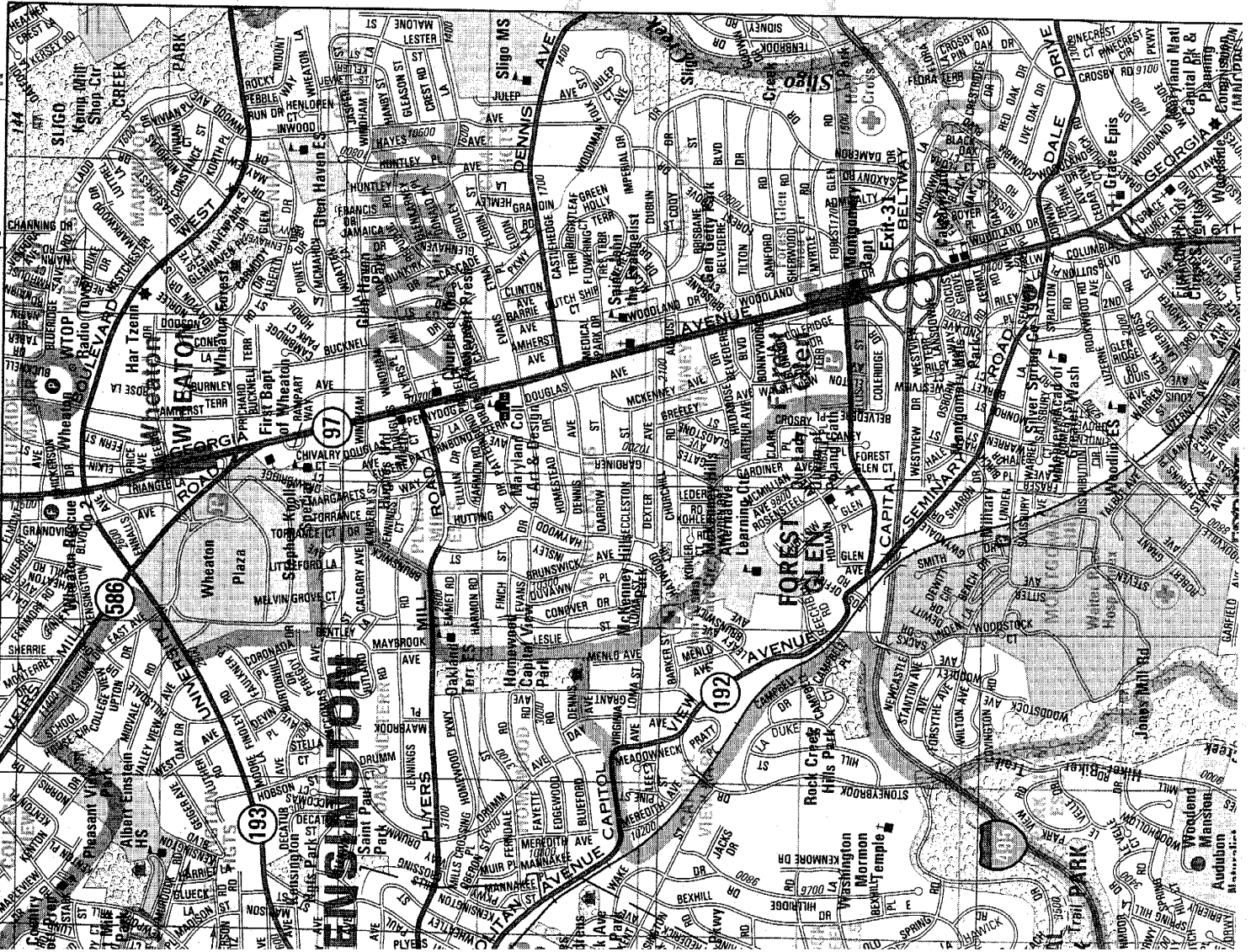
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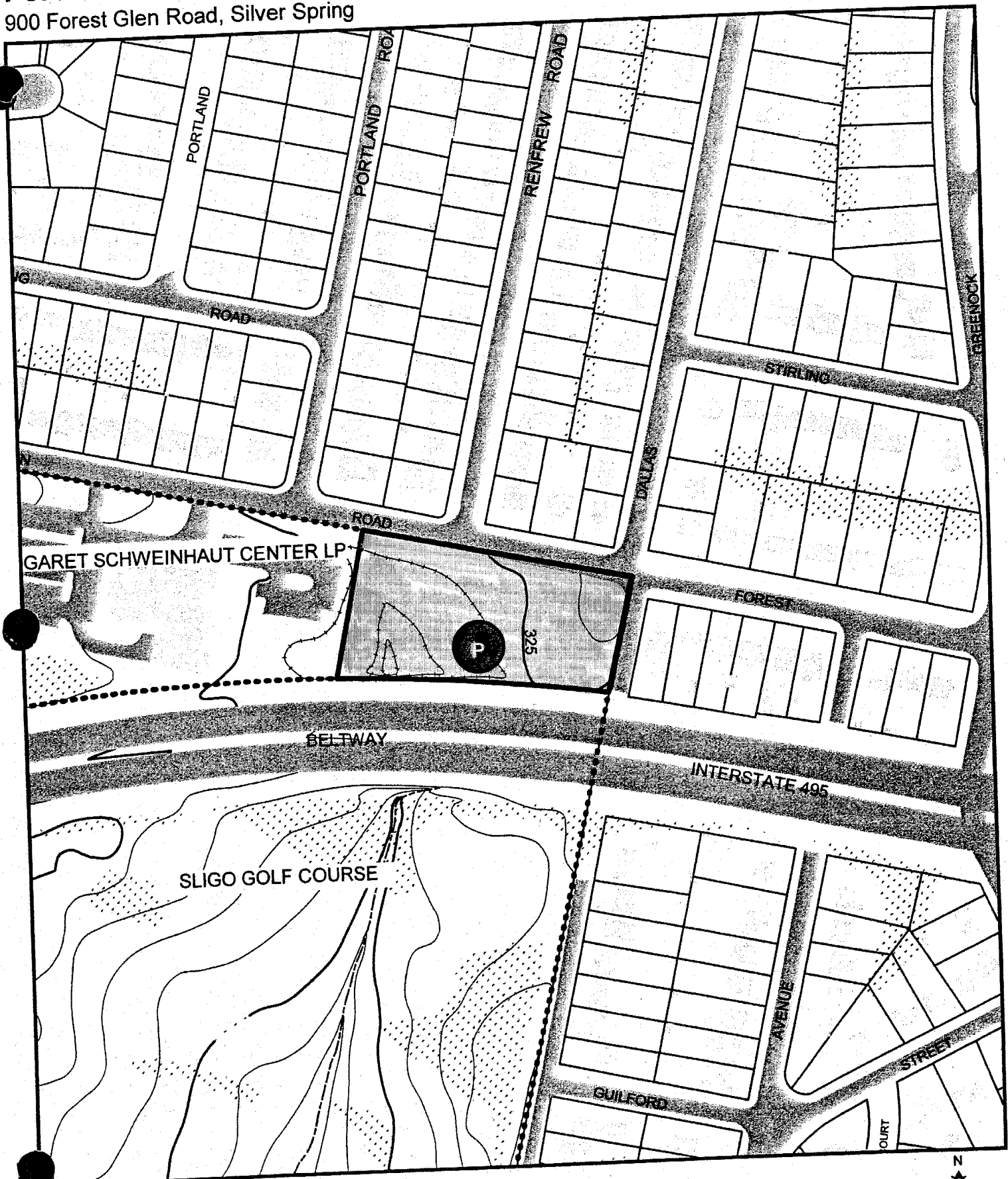
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# Forest Glen - Dallas Avenue Neighborhood Park

900 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring



M-NCPPC

Acreage 3.6  
Facility Code B15

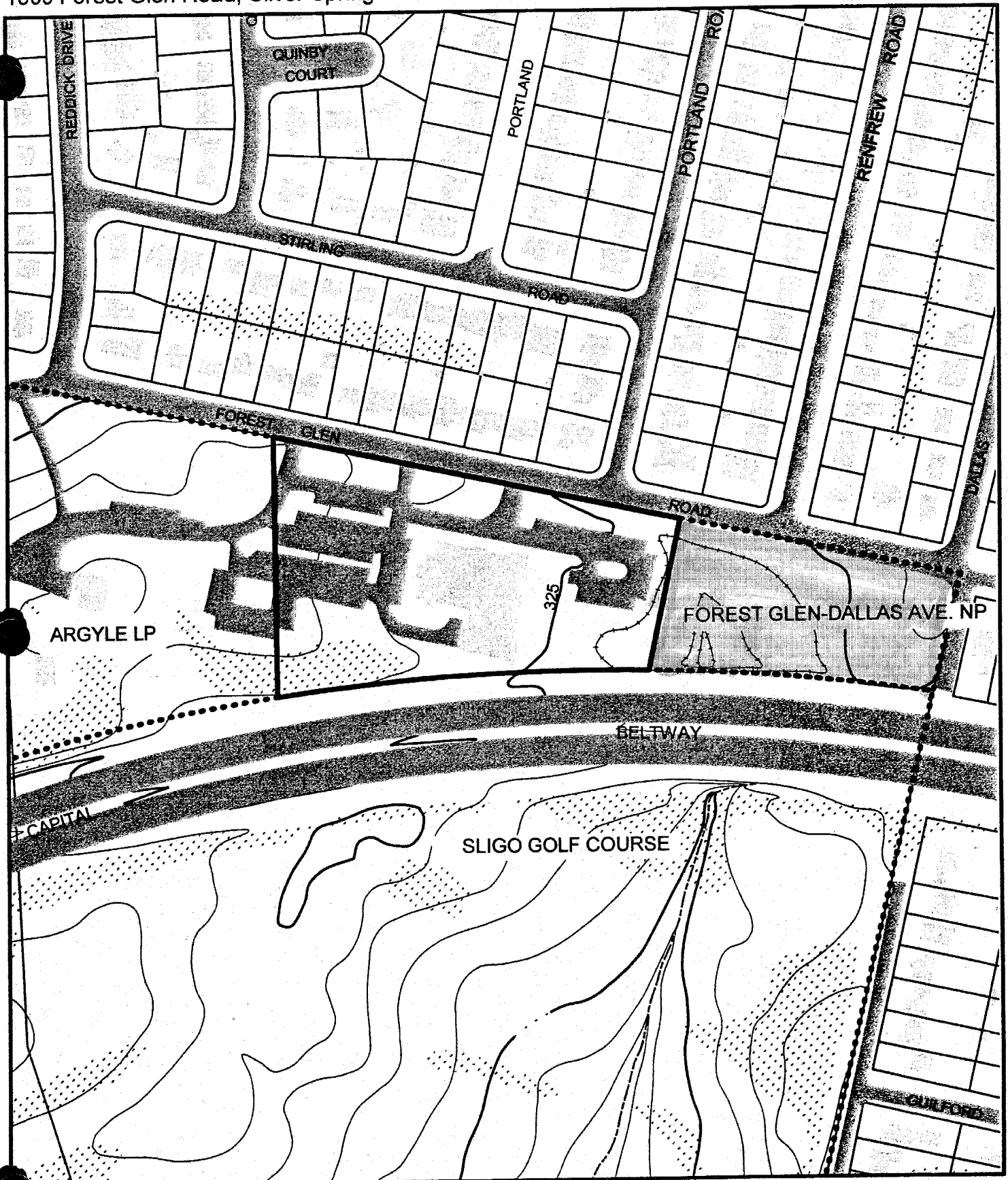
Region S  
Area MB


Date 8/1/2000



# Margaret Schweinhaut Center Local Park

1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring



M-ACRPE  Acreage 4.5  
Facility Code M20

Region S  
Area MB

Date 8/11/2000

