



## Memo - INOVA Outdoor Tour – August 27, 2019

### INOVA:

Dominic Bonaiuto  
Charles Goyette  
Kelly Schlageter  
Sam Raasch

### Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

Laura Grape

### Friends of Holmes Run

Whitney Redding  
Kay Cooper

### Friends of Accotink Creek

Kris Unger  
Philip Latasa

Dominic used the catchphrase “Healthy Experience on Campus”. It is a thought that bears repeating and reinforcing.

There will be a 10’ bike track plus an 8’ sidewalk along Gallows Road, with connections to the paved campus trails. [Eighteen feet of extra asphalt!] Campus trails will be open to the public and will have stopping “stations”. About half the trails are already paved, the rest would be new pavement. Two possible connection points are available for a 495 pedestrian bridge.

Fifty five acres will be preserved as woods “for the next generation”, minus the paved trails. A change in the County Comprehensive Plan would be required to build there.

Eight acres will become pocket-type parks with playgrounds, basketball courts, dog parks, plazas, etc. These are areas that are currently mown lawn, planting beds, or paved.

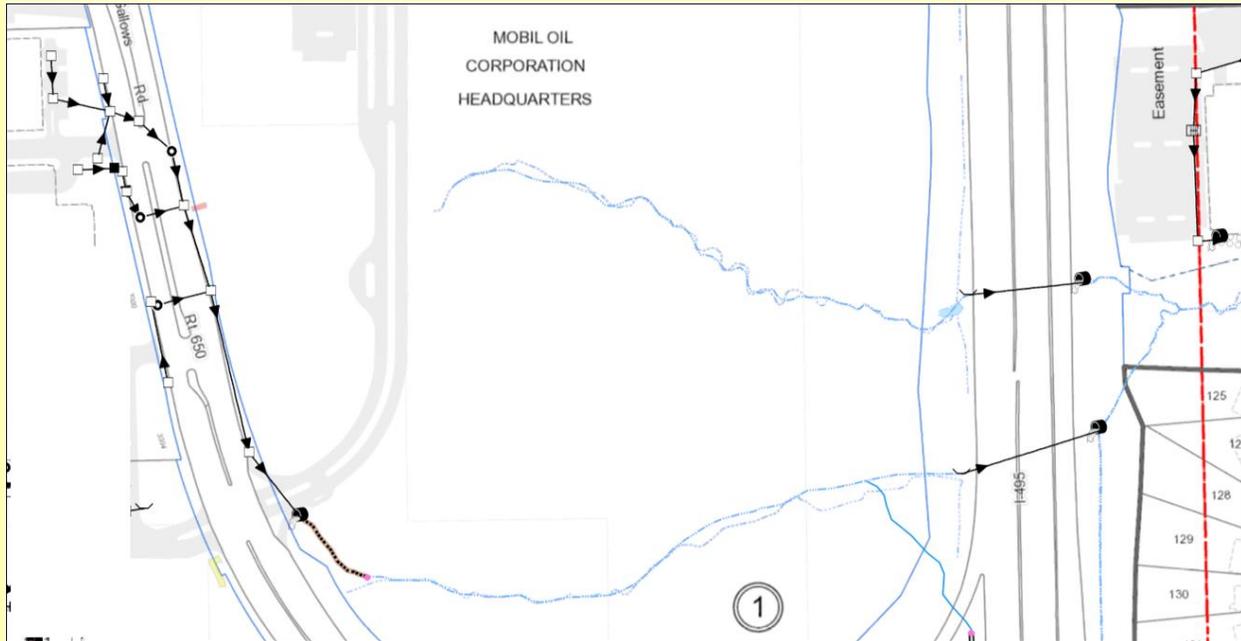
A larger stormwater pond will be installed where the current pond is located.

The plans show a building squarely planted over the three acres of the site that are in the Accotink Creek watershed on County maps.

The trees in the wooded area are a good mix of native species. The understory, however, is widespread stands of Japanese Stilt Grass, where it is not bare. There is a paucity of other vegetation, native or invasive. Signs of deer browsing may explain the state of the understory. Laura suggested INOVA could reach out to Virginia Department of Forestry for free mitigation consultation. Deer management was discussed.

We viewed an eroded intermittent stream in the wooded preserve area south of the buildings. This stream originates on the campus and does not go to the planned stormwater pond, but crosses under 495 without detention. We encouraged INOVA to consider stream restoration to arrest erosion.

[We may have missed an opportunity regarding streams, for the County stormwater map shows another stream farther south that also goes under 495 to join Holmes Run. This other stream does drain paved areas west of Gallows and may present an opportunity for stormwater treatment as part of the project.]



Two intermittent streams

Kay made the point of planting only native species. [INOVA folks nodded, but their response was about legally permitted species.]

Whitney urged use of the recent Walter Reed ecological landscaping project as a template.

Whitney urged considering ways to connect isolated mature tree stands to encourage contiguous wildlife corridors.

Philip urged incorporating visually-appealing stormwater control features into the small parks (and in general)

Whitney added where gardens/parks are shallow because they cover underground parking, consider landscaping solutions used by coastal communities.

Kris suggested maintaining regular communications.

## Friends of Accotink Creek

><(((°>`·,·,·~·,·,·>(((°> "Find just one other person who cares." ><(((°>`·,·,·~·,·,·>(((°>`·,·,·~·,·,· ><(((°>