

# Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



**Priorities in Action**



**Latest News & Upcoming Events**

**Friday, May 30, 2008**

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)

## **County grants leverage \$1 million in park projects**

Standing before a half-finished playground at Forest View Elementary School on Friday, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced a list of grant recipients under the county's latest effort to spur construction of new park amenities.

Ten projects, including the completion of Forest View's playground, are being funded with about \$450,000 in county seed money, matched by more than \$500,000 in community funds and volunteer labor.

The county money, distributed through the newly established Youth Amenities and Recreation Development (YARD) grant program, gives nonprofits, school districts and local municipalities a funding source to complete much-needed parks projects throughout Snohomish County. About 50 representatives from winning groups were present Friday.

"These groups are already an instrumental part of the community fabric," Reardon said over the sound of students enjoying recess. "We are pleased to partner with them to improve the quality of recreational opportunities available to our residents."

The program is part of the Community Enhancement Initiative proposed by Reardon as part of the 2008 county budget. Reardon announced plans Friday to continue the program in the 2009-2010 biennial budget.

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### **How are we doing?**

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](http://www.snoco.org).

Applications were solicited in February and March by the county's Parks and Recreation Department. A total of 13 applications were received and 10 met the grant requirements.

County Council members, who give final approval to individual grants, have been supportive of the program from the beginning.

"I am proud of the executive for his leadership in the creation of this program," Councilman Brian Sullivan said. "I look forward to making YARD grants a permanent cornerstone of future budgets."

The Mukilteo North Little League, located in Sullivan's council district, will use \$50,000 in YARD grant money to improve existing baseball and softball fields at Paine Field Community Park. The Little League has secured \$45,671 in matching funds and labor.

In total, matching funds and volunteer labor for this year's projects come from four school districts, two cities and 10 nonprofits, including various parent-teacher associations and the YMCA.

"The biggest benefit of this grant is that we don't have to ask our children to go sell candy bars and raise money to purchase playground equipment," said Brenda Fuglevand, principal of Forest View Elementary. "And to have this kind of equipment available for them to climb, play and swing benefits their education."

The Forest View PTA is combining \$24,100 in YARD grant money with another \$41,252 to complete the playground climbing structure now partially completed at the school.

Other grant-funded projects can be found throughout Snohomish County, including Arlington, Everett, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace and Sultan. Grants vary from a little more than \$6,000 to the maximum of \$75,000. Projects include sports field improvements, playground equipment and a ropes challenge course.

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**Contact me:**

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Or, [send me an email](#).

And please be sure to [visit me on the web!](#)

Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

“We’re putting county money to work and building up this community,” Reardon said. “This small amount of seed money becomes a considerable investment without a tax increase to Snohomish County residents.”

For a complete list of this year’s grant winners, go to:  
[www.snocoparks.com](http://www.snocoparks.com).

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## **Spray pad opens at Willis Tucker Park**

Local children had their first opportunity last weekend to dodge the Tricky Soaker and enjoy a variety of other spray features at the newly installed spray pad at Willis Tucker Park.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon opened the newly installed spray pad on Friday. Local children immediately raced to cool off with the Silverflow Cannon, Aqua Dome, Splash Palace and more.

The project was paid for in part with \$250,000 in Community Infrastructure Development Initiative (CIDI) funds. In 2006, Reardon proposed an innovative approach to funding needed infrastructure and recreational projects without a tax increase.

The three-year, bond-funded program – leveraged by the county’s improved bonding capacity – accelerated the construction of important transportation, surface water and parks projects as much as 10 years earlier than expected.

Willis Tucker Community Park, 6705 Puget Park Drive, Snohomish. For more information about the spray pad and other ways to get outside and play, go to  
[www.snocoparks.org](http://www.snocoparks.org).



*Executive Reardon cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of Willis Tucker Community Park's new spray pad*

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 **SnoGold hosts brown-bag lunch  
Wednesday, June 4**

SnoGold 2010 will be hosting a brown-bag lunch on Wednesday, June 4, at Everett Community College, to update Snohomish County residents on preparations for the 2010 Olympics in British Columbia.

The program will feature representatives from the Everett Community College SuperHost program, 2008 Skate America and SnoGold 2010.

Bring a lunch and join others to hear how businesses and their employees can benefit from SuperHost training.

SuperHost Fundamentals training provides proven and affordable front-line customer-service training for tourism, retail and service-industry organizations. For more information, go to [www.everettcc.edu/ce/index.cfm?id=7450](http://www.everettcc.edu/ce/index.cfm?id=7450).

Those attending the lunch also will learn the latest on 2008 Skate America planning and how Snohomish County residents can be a part of the action.

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SnoGold's mission is to draw attention to Snohomish County for increased business and tourism opportunities before, during and after the 2010 Olympics and Paralympics in Canada.

For more information on SnoGold 2010, go to [www.snogold2010.org](http://www.snogold2010.org).

Details:

Wednesday, June 4

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Everett Community College

Whitehorse Building, Room 105

2000 Tower Street, Everett

An RSVP is not required but is requested. Please send an e-mail to [SnoGold2010@snoco.org](mailto:SnoGold2010@snoco.org) if you plan to attend.

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 **County seeks input on performance measures**

The Snohomish County Executive's Office is refining the measures it uses to gauge how well county government is performing. Residents are being asked to play a key role.

In 2004, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon launched SnoStat to measure the effectiveness of Snohomish County services. These performance measures guide county decisions and are the foundation of the county budget.

"We know that good performance measures increase government's accountability to the taxpayers," Reardon said. "It's time to reassess how we're doing and determine what can be improved."

Today, there are five performance measurement groups: transportation; public safety, law and justice; health and vulnerability; community development; and public utilities and infrastructure.

During two public feedback sessions, participants will be asked to offer input on how effective and relevant each measurement group is. A light meal will be provided at both sessions.

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The first session will be 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12; the other session is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, June 19.

Both will be held in the first-floor meeting room of the county's Administration East Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett.

SnoStat is guided by the principle that Snohomish County must measure, evaluate and communicate the effectiveness of services and programs it offers residents. Annually, SnoStat has been enhanced to better illustrate the work being done by county departments.

Seats at each meeting are limited, so participants are asked to register by e-mailing [sno.stat@snoco.org](mailto:sno.stat@snoco.org) and specifying which session they would like to attend.

To view Snohomish County's Public Performance Measures, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and click on the "SnoStat" link found on the left side of the page.

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## **County to repave 125 miles of roadway**

Snohomish County and partnering cities will begin resurfacing about 125 miles of roadway as part of an annual resurfacing project.

While some work already has begun, the majority of the program will begin in mid-June at various locations throughout the county.

Each year, the county evaluates its entire roadway network in an effort to develop a plan for maintaining county roads in the most cost-effective way.

The 2008 Overlay and Chip Seal programs will use about 84,000 tons of asphalt to repair, preserve or resurface approximately 121 miles of county roadways and about 4 miles of city streets in Woodway, Marysville, Monroe and Lake Stevens. Cities pay the costs of repaving their own roads.

A thick overlay will be applied to 22.6 miles of the county network, while a chip seal or thin overlay will be used on 98.1 miles.

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Typically, the county resurfaces roads in one of three ways:

**Thin overlays:** County Road Maintenance crews put about an inch of asphalt on residential streets marred by potholes and minor deterioration.

**Thick overlays:** The county's contractor applies 2 to 3 inches of asphalt on moderately to severely deteriorated arterials and residential streets in need of "structural" overlays.

**Chip Seals:** County Road Maintenance crews repair weathered arterials and residential streets by pre-leveling with hot asphalt, then applying a layer of asphalt oil, followed by a layer of crushed rock. This extends the usable life of a road by seven to 10 years and at a minimal cost.

For more information on the annual repaving project, including a list of locations, go to [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search "resurfacing," or contact Joyce Barnes at 425-388-3488, ext. 4530.

For specific information about the thick overlays schedule, contact Pete Michael at 425-388-6662. If you have a question or comment about the construction phase of the work, contact Hamid Aslani, (425) 388-3488, ext. 4294.

For information about the chip seal schedule, contact Duane Myers, Snohomish County Public Works Road Maintenance, at 425-388-7500 or 1-800-562-4367, ext. 7500.

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***Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.***

***If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.***

***You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.***