



**Snohomish County**  
**County Executive's Office**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

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## **Executive Reardon's Plans Allow Existing Playing Fields on Farmland to Continue**

*Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon's proposal would allow 10  
existing playing fields originally designated as commercial farmland*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today submitted the necessary ordinances to council to legalize the use of 10 existing playing fields on land zoned previously only for agricultural use.

“Saving existing playing fields is beneficial to the health and welfare of our county’s residents,” says Reardon.

Reardon’s proposed ordinance provides for changes to the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan designating agricultural lands as recreational lands.

The proposed ordinance is the result of a series of public hearings, site visits and interviews with land owners. Playing fields to be designated as future recreation land include: Stockers Field, Academy Holdings, Corky Klein, South Snohomish Little League, Paintball Field, Ballfield Farm, North Snohomish Little League, Blue Stilly Park Field, Pilchuck Veterinarian Hospital.

“Citizens responded to a lack of public playing fields by constructing their own on local farmland,” says Reardon. “It is important to fulfill this need for community recreational facilities.”

Original state legislation was written for two ballfields only, North and South Little League, but upon the County’s review of the final legislation, it was determined that more fields may be eligible. Reardon was a leader in the hard-fought legislative battle that granted Snohomish County the legal authority to expand eligibility to eight additional ballfields in Snohomish County.

Engrossed House Bill 2241, signed May 12, 2005 by Governor Christine Gregoire, authorized all ballfields meeting specific criteria for a one-time opportunity to change the legal designation of the land from agricultural to recreational. These playing fields are required to be registered with the County and to comply with applicable permitting requirements and development regulations.

“I am extremely pleased that the work we did in the legislature is paying off for families in Snohomish County,” said Reardon.

A companion ordinance will also be forwarded to Council that amends the County’s Unified Development Code relating to playing fields on designated recreational land. It establishes permitting requirements and development regulations applicable to existing playing fields on designated recreational land in accordance with that of Engrossed House Bill 2241. Due to the community benefits of these playing fields, the County has set a permit fee for land owners of zero dollars.

If approved, County planning staff will work closely with the owners and managers of the 10 proposed playing field sites to guide them through the permitting process.

The proposed ordinances follow Reardon’s request of December 19, 2005 for Council approval of the purchase of 39 acres of land from Dave Remlinger for sports fields in Monroe. The land would be purchased in part with a \$150,000 Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant awarded by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. The County’s acquisition would create a multipurpose facility featuring as many as 10 soccer fields and would be home to about 1,200 children of the Sky River soccer league.

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