



**Snohomish County
County Executive's Office**

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Volunteers come together to clean up Jetty Island as part of United Way's 'Day of Caring'

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*Executive Reardon thanks participants for giving their time,
rolls up his sleeves and joins them in removing invasive weeds from the island*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon joined more than 225 volunteers who took time off today to help make Jetty Island a more healthy habitat for people, fish and wildlife. During a lunch break earlier this afternoon, Executive Reardon thanked the volunteers on hand for giving their time to the project.

The project, part of United Way of Snohomish County's 14th annual Day of Caring, provided employees of local businesses the opportunity to spend a day volunteering in their own backyards. Day of Caring is the largest one-day volunteer mobilization effort in Snohomish County.

The event was sponsored by the Nearshore Cooperative, an alliance of Puget Sound conservation groups and organizations that work together to expand stewardship and education in the Snohomish-Camano nearshore environment.

The cooperative includes the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee, Snohomish County's Marine Resources Program, WSU Beach Watchers-Skagit/Snohomish Counties, People for Puget Sound, Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Puget Sound Action Team, Port of Everett, City of Edmonds, Edmonds Community College and Puget Soundkeepers Alliance.

More than 225 volunteers from Snohomish County government, City of Everett, Kimberly-Clark, Community Transit, Naval Station Everett, Microsoft, REI, AmeriCorps, Edmonds

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Community College, Providence Hospital, WSU Beach Watchers-Skagit/Snohomish Counties and Everett Community College-Ocean Research College Academy were among those taking part in the project.

“Our aim here today is to restore Jetty Island by removing invasive weeds, such as Scot’s broom and Himalayan blackberry, and replacing them native plants instead,” Ann Boyce, Executive Director of the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force, said. “These efforts are important to salmon, birds and other wildlife on Jetty Island, as well as the surrounding nearshore environment.”

Volunteers also spent the day picking up litter along the shoreline, flagging creosote logs and performing maintenance to the island’s trails.

“Day of Caring provides co-workers, friends, neighbors and family members a chance to roll up their sleeves and give back to the community,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “Bringing the public and private sectors, non-profits, and large and small businesses together in partnership to preserve our natural habitat is emblematic of the enduring values we all share.”

Each year, community volunteers made up of workplace teams, clubs, individuals and families roll up their sleeves and take to the streets, completing meaningful volunteer projects that make an impact on our community. Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers logged more than 6,900 hours and \$121,000 worth of volunteer effort in one day.

Other partners for the Jetty Island Day of Caring project include the Northwest Straits Commission, City of Everett’s Parks Department and Planning Department, Snohomish Conservation District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Washington Conservation Corps-AmeriCorps program.

Jetty Island, a 2-mile-long, man-made island off the Everett waterfront, is owned by the Port of Everett. It was created with river sediment to provide harbor protection and a navigation channel for the Snohomish River. Since 1985, the Port of Everett has been partnering with the City of Everett Parks Department to use the island as a summer getaway for local beach-goers.

“Jetty Island has provided countless memories for residents throughout the Puget Sound region,” Executive Reardon said. “Giving back a few hours of our time is the least we can do to ensure that Jetty remains a treasure for future generations to enjoy as well.”

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