



**Snohomish County  
County Executive's Office**

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## Executive Reardon announces \$1.75 million Centennial Trail grant

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*State gives matching money to build new link between  
Arlington and the Skagit County line*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon announced today that the County has secured \$1.75 million from Washington state that will help pay for another extension to the popular Centennial Trail.

The parks construction grant, the largest awarded by the state this year, will allow the County to add an additional eight miles to the heavily traveled trail, stretching it from Arlington to the Skagit County line by 2007.

“The Centennial Trail is a Snohomish County gem,” Executive Reardon said. “More than 300,000 walkers, hikers, horseback riders and cyclists are already using the trail each year. This extension will allow even more of us to enjoy outdoor recreation close to home.”

The state’s Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) awarded the grant, which is part of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. It matches local dollars that have already been set aside by the Snohomish County Parks Department to complete work on the trail’s newest segment.

The trail provides an alternative transportation route and currently connects the communities of Snohomish, Lake Stevens, Arlington and points between. The “linear” park also serves as a conservation corridor protecting sensitive and important natural and

cultural resources. Development of the trail began in 1989 during the state's centennial, hence the name, Centennial Trail.

The trail's new eight-mile leg will have some unusual features.

The trail crosses the Stillaguamish River using an abandoned railroad trestle that will be renovated, continue on the former railroad right-of-way northward through Bryant, across Pilchuck Creek, through forested areas to a trailhead that will be located on the County line.

The Centennial Trail includes a non-motorized paved multipurpose trail and an adjacent natural surface equestrian trail. The trail project is well into the design and engineering stage and has entered the permit process.

In May, Executive Reardon was joined by several hundred people for the dedication of trail's portion of the stretches from Lake Stevens to just south of Arlington, a 10.3 mile addition.

The Centennial Trail is constructed on the original railway right-of-way built north of Snohomish by the Seattle, Lake Shore, and Eastern Railroad (S.L.&E.) in 1889. The S.L.&E. eventually connected Seattle north with Canada and linked Everett east with Stevens Pass. In 1892 the Sumas Branch line between Snohomish and Arlington was purchased from S.L.&E. by Northern Pacific and later sold to Burlington Northern, in 1970. Operation ceased on the Hartford-Edgecomb section in 1972 and on the Snohomish-Hartford section in 1987.

To the south in King County, a section of this same abandoned S.L.&E. line has become Seattle's heavily-used Burke-Gilman Trail and King County's Sammamish River Trail.

The railroad provided local and international mail, freight and passenger service. It carried timber from the forests, lumber from the saw mills, and iron, copper, lead, silver and gold from Mount Pilchuck and Monte Cristo mines. Tourists could ride in open rail cars to Monte Cristo and back for the day, winding through the steep canyons of the South Fork Stillaguamish River, or go to the Big Four Inn at the ice caves on the "Mountain Loop" to the east.

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