

Media Advisory – Jan. 23, 2012

Contact: Christopher Schwarzen

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

Parks adds 100 acres to system for multiple uses

Snohomish County completed Monday the purchase of 100 acres near Maltby from the University of Washington.

The land will be used for future park amenities including baseball and soccer fields. Snohomish County's approval follows the University of Washington's decision to sell the property during its Jan. 12 Board of Regents meeting. The purchase price is \$9.7 million and will be paid for using Brightwater mitigation funds that must be spent within a 4-mile radius of the plant and by the end of 2015.

Known as "Wellington Hills," this publicly owned land is located south of the treatment facility and is large enough to accommodate several sports facilities and recreation opportunities, which will be determined by the county's Parks and Recreation Department through a public-input process.

"Today's purchase is a great value for money that must be spent on park land," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Its future uses will enhance an already world-class parks-and-recreation system."

The Wellington Hills purchase is the latest of the county's purchases using Brightwater mitigation funds totaling \$70 million, of which more than \$30 million had been designated for recreation. King and Snohomish counties agreed to the mitigation package in 2005 prior to the sewage treatment plant being built at the crux of Highways 9 and 522.

"These funds could not be redirected to other projects or expended outside the 4-mile mitigation zone, so finding property of such caliber is important to us," said Parks Director Tom Teigen.

Other purchases using the mitigation funds include:

Paradise Valley Conservation Area

Brightwater Mitigation Funds provided funding for 127 acres of the nearly 800-acre Paradise Valley Conservation Area, which includes Snohomish County's first Regional Mountain Biking Skills Park with more than 13 miles of trails. The Paradise Valley Conservation Area and Regional Mountain Bike Park opened to the public in 2008.

Tambark Creek Community Park

Brightwater Mitigation funds provided funding for the design, engineering, permitting and construction of Tambark Creek Community Park near Mill Creek. The 38-acre park is currently under construction and will open in late 2012.

Miners Corner Community Park

Brightwater Mitigation Funds provided funding for the acquisition, design, engineering, permitting and construction of Miners Corner Community Park located at 228th Street Southeast 45th Avenue Southeast. The 13-acre project will enter the permitting phase this spring and is scheduled for completion and grand opening in 2013. This will be the first “universally accessible” park in the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation system.

Snohomish County’s park system – which includes more than 100 park properties, more than 10,000 acres, nearly 50 miles of shoreline and hundreds of miles of trails – hosts nearly 4 million visitors annually.



Snohomish County Parks & Recreation

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