



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

## **For Immediate Release – Saturday, April 1, 2006**

Contact: Donna Ambrose, Executive Management Analyst, 425.388.3883; 206.755.9823

### **Executive Reardon, Community Celebrate the Grand Opening of Willis D. Tucker Community Park**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, on Saturday, April 1 kicked off festivities at the public grand opening of the new Willis D. Tucker Community Park.

About 125 area residents throughout the day attended the celebration along with County Council members, Dave Gossett and Dave Somers, State Representative John Lovick, Parks Director Gary Weikel and members of the Willis D. Tucker family. The Park was named after the late Willis D. Tucker, Snohomish County's first elected County Executive.

Free hot dogs, popcorn, coffee, and lemonade were available and children had fun posing for pictures with Smokey the Bear and Sammy the Salmon.

“Parks like the new Willis D. Tucker are community assets that contribute to the health of our citizens.” says Reardon. “The County’s goal is to continue building more parks, ball fields and recreation facilities for the future enjoyment of our residents.”

The new Willis D. Tucker Park totals eighty-four (84) acres along Puget Park Drive adjacent to the residential communities of Silver Firs and Snohomish Cascade Avenue, three miles east of Mill Creek.

Willis D. Tucker is being developed in three phases. The master development plan for the park was produced and approved by the County Council in 2003. Today marks the opening of Phase One (A) which includes: a 320 feet baseball field, a playground, a basketball court, landscaping, trails, rain gardens, administrative offices and a community activity center. The building was built with the environment in mind using “green” construction elements. An example is the roof rainwater collection receptacle that reduces water consumption in its restrooms.

Phase One (B) begins construction this summer and will add to the park, a second ball field, a restroom near the ball fields, two picnic shelters and an amphitheater. When completed, Phase One will occupy 27 acres and cost about \$4.7 million.

Phases Two and Three will add soccer fields, another playground, a climbing rock, more picnic shelters, an off-leash dog park, a natural area with trails and woodland amenities, more landscaping and parking.

Photo: left to right: John Tucker (Willis Tucker's son), Dave Somers (County Councilman), Lynette Tucker (Willis Tucker's wife), Dave Gossett (County Councilman), Aaron Reardon (County Executive).

###