Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon presented his proposed 2013 budget Friday to a public audience, which included several elected officials and county staff.

The proposed General Fund budget remains relatively flat at just more than $211 million with expenditures projected to grow by less than 2.5 percent. The overall county budget for 2013 is expected to be about $649 million, including increased capital expenditures at the airport and Brightwater mitigation funds for parks.

“The budget I present today is marked by necessary restraint and discipline,” Reardon said. “Our resources are limited and our spending plans must be as well.

“This discipline is key to our ability to continue making important investments in our community’s economy and infrastructure,” he added.

Public safety spending still accounts for the largest portion of the general fund budget at more than 73 percent. It also accounts for the largest gains in staffing with the inclusion of 15 new deputies to account for a contract approved earlier this year with the City of Snohomish.

“Since 2001, the county’s general fund commitment to public safety has grown by more than $54 million,” Reardon said. “During that same period, while our population has grown by more than 100,000 people, expenditures have grown by only $2 million for all other non-law and justice services supported by the general fund. This includes services that provide for veterans and seniors, park operations, community development, elections and all of the basic internal services that keep our county operational.”

General fund staffing levels in other departments will remain essentially the same as in the 2012 budget. Across all funds, staff will increase by about 1 percent with some new positions in the county’s Planning and Development Services Department due to increased permitting activity.

Improvements to the county’s airport in 2013 will allow for the continued expansion of the
region’s aerospace industry, adding jobs to the already growing field, Reardon said. Parks
additions, paid for predominantly through mitigation funds, also highlight the community’s
desires for improved quality of life, he said.

Reardon also cautioned county leaders that lean times would continue for the county but noted
that Snohomish County has consistently overcome the fiscal challenges presented by the Great
Recession.

“Showing the discipline to save and plan for the future is critical to future investments and
protecting core services,” he said. “While I understand how difficult it is to show such restraint
when we always wish to do more, I once again urge the Council to join with me in maintaining
this important principle.”

Reardon also thanked the other separately elected officials and county employees for their
sacrifices during these difficult years.

“From our elected officials and appointed department heads to front-line staff, each and every
county employee’s commitment to service is vital to our current and future success,” he said.
“Once again, each of these leaders has stepped up to the challenge of delivering the services our
people demand within the confines of tightly constrained funding.”

To view the Executive’s proposed 2013 budget or to read his comments, click [here].

**Local troop meets Reardon, discusses county civics**
Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon met Friday with Troop 16 of Mukilteo. The group was working on one of its Webelos badges, which required them to learn more about their local government leaders. Reardon talked with the children about ways to be good citizens and how to contribute to their community for a better quality of life. The children also wanted to know if the Executive has a private airplane like the President. Disappointed, they learned he does not.

County groups offer coastal landowners assistance

A free workshop for coastal landowners in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area will be offered Oct. 13 to provide coastal landowners with tools and information to help them protect and maintain healthy shoreline properties.

With support from Snohomish County and Island County’s Marine Resources Committees, the Northwest Straits Foundation is sponsoring the workshop – along with free site visits to landowners from qualified professionals – through a grant from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area encompasses the shoreline of Port Susan in Snohomish County and the east side of Camano Island in Island County. The workshop will provide landowners the opportunity to learn about best management practices for erosion control, shoreline processes in the area, the use of native vegetation for slope stability and habitat, and
shorline permitting and regulations. Coastal processes expert Jim Johannessen of Coastal Geologic Services will give a 90-minute presentation at the center followed by a beach walk.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Camano Center, 606 Arrowhead Road, Camano Island.

For more information about the workshop or to register, call the foundation at 360-756-5024 or click [here](#).

The mission of the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) is to protect and restore the marine resources of the Northwest Straits. The foundation is the nonprofit arm of the Northwest Straits Initiative and supports priority projects identified by seven county-based Marine Resources Committees.

The Island and Snohomish Marine Resources Committees are citizen committees appointed by their county elected officials and are responsible for identifying and carrying out priority projects to protect and restore the marine resources of their respective counties. There are seven Marine Resources Committees in the Northwest Straits region of the Puget Sound. For more information, contact the [Snohomish Marine Resources Committee](#) at 425-388-6414 or the [Island Marine Resources Committee](#) at 360-678-9097.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.

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