

# PRESS RELEASE



Snohomish County

County Council

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Mike Cooper  
Dave Gossett  
John Koster  
Dave Somers  
Brian Sullivan

## *Brightwater Mitigation Funds*

## **County buys 9 acres for new 'Brightwater' park**

Tapping mitigation funds from the Brightwater wastewater treatment plant, the Snohomish County Council has approved a purchase and sale agreement for almost nine acres for a future community park at the southeast corner of 228<sup>th</sup> St. SE and 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, about half a mile west of the plant site.

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"This is the first parkland purchase using Brightwater mitigation funds," said County Councilman Dave Gossett. "Creating new park space in this area of the county is important for maintaining the livability of the community. I am committed to providing quality park projects for the residents of Snohomish County."

Gossett also noted that the county is planning to construct several pedestrian walkways/sidewalks and bicycle lanes in the area, further enhancing public access to this park. A walkway and bicycle lane will be built along 228<sup>th</sup> Street from 39<sup>th</sup> Ave to Highway 9, and a walkway/sidewalk will be built on 45<sup>th</sup> Ave. from 212<sup>th</sup> St to 240<sup>th</sup> St., Engineering for these projects is scheduled to begin this year, with all construction expected to be completed in 2012.

"The funding for this park comes from the settlement agreement that allowed King County to build the Brightwater facility in Snohomish County," said Gossett. "Additional parkland purchases using Brightwater mitigation funds are in the works."

The treatment plant, expected to open in 2011, will serve residents in both counties.

In total, Gossett said King County agreed to provide \$70 million to mitigate the impact of the Brightwater plant, with \$30.4 million dedicated to parks and recreational projects, \$25 million for public safety improvements (including walkways), \$10.8 million for habitat mitigation and about \$3 million for the construction of a community resource center.

Snohomish County is paying \$1.86 million for the 8.83 acres, with the sale expected to close in March. The Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department will subsequently undertake a public planning process to develop a park master plan for the property.

Persons interested in participating in planning process for this park are asked to contact Councilmember Gossett at 425-388-3494, or e-mail [dave.gossett@snoco.org](mailto:dave.gossett@snoco.org).

"Investing in parks today is an investment in the future," said Gossett. "We need to do all we can to preserve and enhance the qualities of our neighborhoods for current and coming generations."

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