

Sept. 13, 2001

## Groundbreaking ceremony kicks off Greenbrier Heights construction

King County Executive Ron Sims today joined developers, funders and the City of Woodinville in celebrating the groundbreaking of the new Greenbrier Heights housing development project located just south of the intersection of 144th Avenue NE and NE North Woodinville Way in Woodinville, Washington.

When completed, the 22-acre Greenbrier Heights project will create 50 new rental units for low-income seniors, 50 units of affordable rental housing for low-income families, 11 moderate-income ownership cottage houses, and 59 moderate to median-income ownership units as well as a park and community center. The project also preserves 11 acres of wetland.

"The Greenbrier Heights project helps us to create affordable housing opportunities for seniors, individuals, and families in an area of King County where there is a critical shortage," said Executive Ron Sims. "This extraordinary project not only benefits those who will make their homes here, but also contributes to the quality of life for the residents of the City of Woodinville and King County who will be able to enjoy the park, community center, and walking and bicycle paths that complete the project. It is truly an exceptional example of what government, non-profit and private sector housing developers can accomplish when we work together to build communities, not just houses."

Woodinville Mayor Randy Ransom added, "The power of partnerships brings great things to a community. We are honored to have this important project in our city."

The 22-acre County-owned property was originally purchased in 1980 for use as a solid waste transfer station. It was never used for that purpose and was declared surplus land in 1995 by the King County Council. The County Council approved an ordinance in 1997 that made the land available for affordable housing development. Greenbrier Heights, formerly known as Woodinview, is located in the northeastern portion of Woodinville. Half of the



**"This is an exceptional example of what government, non-profit and private sector housing developers can accomplish when we work together to build communities, not just houses," said Executive Sims during a groundbreaking ceremony. When completed the 22-acre project will offer affordable housing, community amenities and preserve 11 acres of wetland.**

[\[Enlarged view, 70K\]](#)

land will be developed, with the other half preserved in its natural state to preserve wetlands and benefit salmon and other wildlife.

"I have been waiting five years for this project. I'm thrilled that the groundbreaking is finally taking place, though I wish it could have happened sooner," said County Councilmember Louise Miller. "This is a very important project for the families served by this housing unit. It is a good opportunity for governments to work together towards solving the affordable housing shortage in this region."

King County joined with the City of Woodinville, A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH), Shelter Resources Inc (SRI), and CamWest to create and develop the unique combination of green spaces, community facilities and affordable housing that make up the Greenbrier Heights project. Funding was provided by King County (\$1.7 million), the City of Woodinville (\$270,000), ARCH and its member jurisdictions (\$365,000), and the State of Washington Housing Trust Fund (\$1 million). The State Housing Finance Commission awarded \$9 million in low-income housing tax credits. Completion of the Greenbrier Heights housing development project is estimated for summer 2002.

For more information on the Greenbrier Heights housing development please call Linda Peterson, Department of Community and Human Services, Housing and Community Development at (206) 206-8661 or Ray Sturz, Planning Director, City of Woodinville at (425) 489-2757.

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