

Gardenland Northgate Neighborhood Association

2022 Annual Report

Despite the ongoing pandemic, GNNA continued its advocacy and support for the Gardenland Northgate Community. As we look back at 2022, we're amazed at GNNA's accomplishments. This would not have been possible without Councilmember Harris' office, our community and the GNNA Board. Below is a summary of GNNA's 2022 achievements and projects:

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

1. **Air Quality Monitors** – Three air quality monitors were installed on Northgate in July and with support of United Latinos and CSUS interns, data is being collected and analyzed. In February 2023 a 6-month report will be presented to the community.
2. **Scholarships** – GNNA was proud to receive generous scholarship donations from “Taco” Dave Smith of the local Taco Bell franchises & Demmon Partners Development. GNNA was able to award four \$1000 scholarships to local students either starting or continuing their college education.
3. **Northgate Mural** – The “Victory and Rhythm Mural had a groundbreaking ceremony in June which was attended by the Community, elected officials and the Mexican Consulate.



4. **Northgate Traffic Lights** - Construction began on the three traffic signals. The Haggin Drive left-turn signal lighted is operational. Sotano & Rio Tierra Ave are in process.
5. **Northgate Banners** – Twenty-three new Banners were installed on the streets of Northgate. An additional 11 banner locations have been identified and are pending installation.



6. **Northgate Mobility Study** – The draft Northgate Mobility Design was completed with GNNA organizing several community workshops in May, September and October. The workshops were a combination of virtual and in-person gatherings. At each workshop, a minimum of 25 community members and small businesses attended, providing extensive feedback. The City of Sacramento is expected to have the final design adopted in early 2023.
7. **SMUD, SHCC and GNNA Electrification Program** – 135 Northgate small businesses were approached and informed on the SMUD Electrification Program. Of those, 33 businesses agreed to an assessment on how best to improve their electrical usage. For restaurants on Northgate a “Cooking with Convection Equipment” demonstration was held. Several of the restaurants were impressed with the efficiency of the ovens. Subsequently, a presentation was given by SMUD and SHCC to Councilmember Harris and the Office of Economic Development resulting in a contract awarded to SHCC in the amount of \$1.3M for this project. An additional \$700k will go toward Northgate small businesses’ COVID recovery support.
8. **SMUD/GNNA Neighborhood Electrification Pilot** - This pilot started in May as a collaboration with SMUD, CRP, Stanford Settlement and SacEJC, targeting 50 homes in Gardenland. The goal is to improve energy efficiency by creating a safer and healthier home. SMUD committed to 100% funding support for any efficiency improvements. As of December, 82 in-person contacts were made with 30 assessments completed. SMUD

approved the free installations of new HVAC, electric water heaters, weatherization, electric panel upgrades, convection cooking ranges, refrigerator upgrade, etc. For 2023, SMUD plans to continue its outreach and assessments. The goal is to complete many more assessments and electrical transformations.

9. Food Truck Plaza – In partnership with the community and La Piedad, GNNA made recommendations to Councilmember Harris on the design and implementation of a permanent Food Truck Plaza on Peralta and Northgate. \$120k was awarded for this project.

10. Breathe California – GNNA received a grant to establish an air-monitoring network to assess public health and environmental impacts due to vehicle emissions. The network included United Latinos, Valley Vision, the Native American Health Center, CSUS, etc. As part of the grant, GNNA will hold 4-6 Community engagement activities to inform the Gardenland community with the aim to empower and advocate for solutions that mitigate air quality impacts and facilitate positive community development.

CELEBRATIONS/EVENTS:

11. Cinco de Mayo – The inaugural Cinco de Mayo and Parade was a huge success due to the collaboration with Los Primoz , the Sacramento Lowriders Association and Councilmember Harris’s Office. Over 5,000 individuals and their families attended.



12. Community Mural Paint Day – in conjunction with Cinco de Mayo, a community paint day was held so that community members can help paint the mural at Northgate and Peralta. Around 200 painters showed up to paint a small portion of the mural under the direction of the mural artists.



13. Día de los Muertos – The second Annual Día De Los Muertos event was held at Stanford Settlement. Community organizations were invited to construct “Altars. Music and dancers performed throughout the day. In support of this event, GNNA held an “Altar” making workshop.



10. Operation Cratchit - Due to the on-going pandemic, GNNA was unable to host our annual holiday dinner. Rather than a toy-drive, GNNA decided to assist Stanford Settlement with their annual Operation Cratchit project. 775 families received groceries, gift cards, and toys. GNNA donated \$2100 worth of toys to Operation Cratchit.

11. Gardenland Christmas Tree Lighting at Stanford Settlement – The first annual Christmas Tree lighting was held on December 9th. Lights were placed on the tree in front of the Stanford Settlement office. After the lights were lit, over 100 residents enjoyed a visit with Santa, homemade cookies, hot chocolate, and candy donated by Dutch Brothers and Casa Flor.



12. SMUD/GNNA Electric Vehicle Event – In September, GNNA along with SMUD and the support of Twin Rivers, we held an event at Smythe Elementary whereby electric vehicles were on display and community members were encouraged to test drive a vehicle. Over 50 individuals test drove an electric vehicle. This was the first to be held in our community.

13. SMUD Power of Art Contest – Covering the utility boxes along Northgate Blvd. with art has been a long-time goal of GNNA. SMUD along with GNNA held a contest for youth in the GNNA area called “The Power of Art”. The winning art will be converted into artistic wraps to cover the 17 utility boxes on Northgate. Installation will occur in 2023.

Community Partnerships - 2022 was another year that showed the generosity and involvement of our community. GNNA relied on our long-time partners such as Stanford Settlement, CM Harris, CM Ashby, Supervisor Serna, and Zen Garden (Dr. Greenthumbs) for their ongoing support of our projects. We continued our partnership and collaboration with Alyssa Lozano of ALL Realty, the Natomas Arts & Garden Center, the Greenhouse, La Superior Market, Primos Pizza, Casa Flor, United Latinos, the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, SMUD, Verizon, Demmon Partners, Twin Rivers School District, Knights of Columbus, Dutch Brothers, and the Sacramento Environmental Social Justice Coalition. We are grateful to our partners, volunteers and the community that helped us with so many of our programs and projects. Without them, GNNA would not have been able to achieve all that we did. 2023 promises to be an exciting year with the election of Councilwoman Talamantes. Gardenland Northgate is on its way to becoming a destination for all of Sacramento to enjoy.