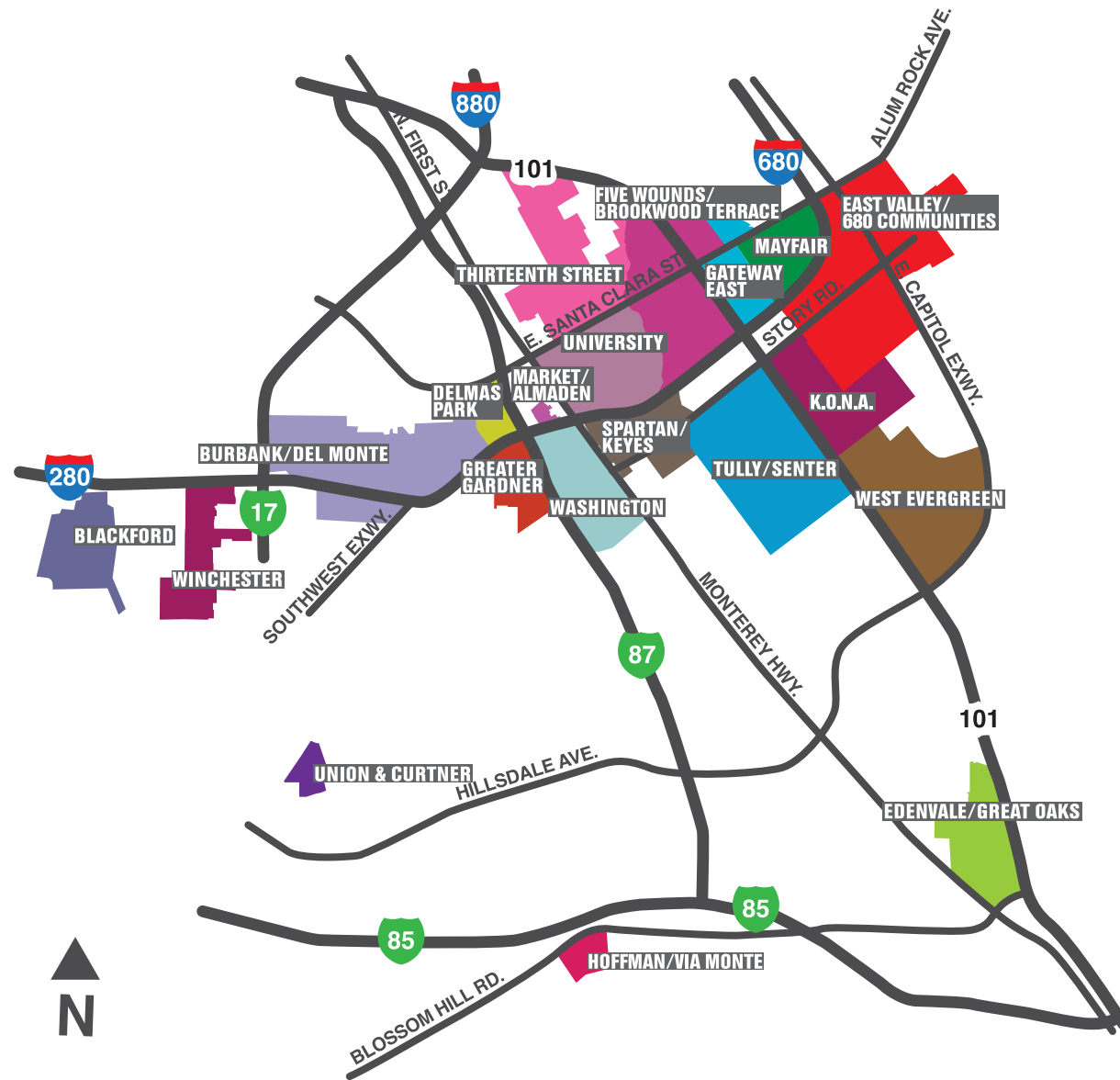


## Strong Neighborhoods



## Resources

City of San José  
[www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)

Strong Neighborhoods Initiative  
[www.strongneighborhoods.org](http://www.strongneighborhoods.org)

Neighborhood Development Center  
[www.strongneighborhoods.org/ndc.asp](http://www.strongneighborhoods.org/ndc.asp)

San Jose Redevelopment Agency  
[www.sjredevelopment.org](http://www.sjredevelopment.org)

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services  
[www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/)

Planning, Building and Code Enforcement  
[www.sanjoseca.gov/building](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/building)

Affordable Housing Information  
[www.sjhousing.org](http://www.sjhousing.org)

Volunteer San José  
[www.volunteersanjose.org](http://www.volunteersanjose.org)

# San José



# Strong Neighborhoods

### About SNI

19 areas  
 230,000 people  
 25% of the city's land area  
 \$2 billion in public and private investment

### SAN JOSE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

200 E. Santa Clara Street, Floor 14  
 San José, CA 95113  
 408.535.8500

### CITY OF SAN JOSE

200 E. Santa Clara Street  
 San José, CA 95113  
 408.535.3500

# Building **Strong Neighborhoods** Through Partnerships

In 2000, the City of San Jose, the San Jose Redevelopment Agency and the community united to create the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative (SNI), an ambitious neighborhood improvement program. Since the initiative was launched, approximately **\$2.7 billion in public and private funding has been invested in 19 areas**, helping to make San Jose neighborhoods cleaner, safer and more vibrant.

The grassroots approach to renewing San Jose's neighborhoods directly involved residents who, through Neighborhood Action Coalitions (NAC), developed Neighborhood Improvement Plans outlining their "Top Ten" priorities. The plans were approved by the Planning Commission and City Council.

The priority lists from the historically neglected neighborhoods were as diverse as their residents: Street repaving and

streetlights; new sewer systems; parks and community centers; slowing motorists on neighborhood streets; sprucing up businesses; engaging residents in clean-ups and helping them improve their homes. The Top Ten list served as a work plan for each neighborhood.

Since the program's implementation, SNI has resulted in more than physical improvements throughout the 19 areas. New community leaders have emerged as educated and engaged citizens taking charge of their neighborhood's destiny by working with the City on improvement projects, as well as prompt and efficient delivery of services.

The leaders of the NACs and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), a larger umbrella group, guided the work plans for the 19 areas.



"I never imagined that our neighborhood would transform into a real community, one that cares for each other, one where we know who we are."

Norma Ruiz, Burbank/Del Monte Strong Neighborhood

# Investing in Neighborhoods

Private sector investors have put \$2 billion into 100 projects, including 5,428 new housing units and 1 million square feet of space for commercial and non-profit uses. The Agency and City have invested \$76 million on SNI priorities and \$225 million in other public projects in the 19 areas. Another \$446 million has been invested by other public entities in those areas. Some of the highlights of the \$2.7 billion investment include:

## ✓ Affordable Housing

\$148 million for new housing developments in SNI areas, \$9 million for 531 housing rehabilitation projects and \$157 million invested to create 2,667 affordable units.

## ✓ Clean Neighborhoods

\$700,000 resulted in the inspection of 92,000 parcels and the elimination of more than 14,400 blight conditions, as well as generating 60 "Blight Buster" volunteers.

## ✓ Parks and Community Centers

\$304 million in funds from the City and other sources helped finance more than 50 new projects, including 14 parks, 16 park improvement projects, 11 community centers, eight libraries and four trail projects.

## ✓ Safe and Attractive Streets

\$36 million for street reconstruction, streetlights, street trees, traffic calming, sidewalk and pedestrian improvement projects, landscaped median islands, new sewers and storm drains and utility upgrades.

## ✓ Vital Business Districts

\$3 million for facade and streetscape improvements, strengthening business associations and connecting businesses to resources.

## ✓ Property Values

From 1999 to 2007, SNI areas showed a significant increase in property values. Property values in SNI areas increased nearly 100 percent, compared to 72 percent growth for the City as a whole.



"The program has allowed residents to connect and build leadership skills, which contributes to a greater sense of pride in the community as we continue to move projects forward for a better quality of life."

Joan Rivas-Cosby, Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace Strong Neighborhood

# Get Involved in Your Neighborhoods

If you live in or near one of the 19 SNI neighborhoods, you can:

**Attend the next meeting of your neighborhood association or Neighborhood Action Coalition (NAC).** Call the San Jose Redevelopment Agency at 408.535.8500 or visit [www.strongneighborhoods.org](http://www.strongneighborhoods.org) for more details. You can also call the Customer Service Call Center at 408.535.3500.

## **Volunteer for a neighborhood activity.**

Pick up litter, remove graffiti, plant flowers or come up with your own neighborhood improvement idea. Invite neighbors to join in. For more information about neighborhood organizing and activities, call the Neighborhood Development Center at 408.723.4114.

## **Be a neighborhood watchdog.**

Report graffiti, broken street lights, abandoned vehicles and suspicious activity. The Blight Buster volunteer program trains residents to patrol areas and report blight findings to code enforcement officers. For more information about Blight Busters, call 408.921.0473.

**Visit [www.volunteersanjose.org](http://www.volunteersanjose.org)** for information on hundreds of volunteer opportunities in various City departments.



"SNI motivated residents in taking action, pride and ownership of our community (and gave) us the tools and the support needed to make a difference."

Gloria Rivera, KONA Strong Neighborhood