



Home Delivery [RSS](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [My Town](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Entertainment](#) [Life](#) [Columns](#) [Opinion](#) [Help](#)

[Jobs](#) [Cars](#) [Homes](#) [Classifieds](#) [Shop](#) [Place An Ad](#)

NewsLibrary

Thank you for using NewsLibrary

Walnut Creek Journal (CA){PUBLICATION2}



Northgate High breaks ground for a new complex

October 18, 2007

Section: News

Edition: FINAL

Page: 3

Elisabeth Nardi
STAFF WRITER

It's a field of dreams that is becoming a reality.

At Northgate High School, a long-awaited sports complex is finally being built. For years, the Northgate Community Pride Foundation, a group that raises funds for capital improvements at the school, has been working to raise the \$1.3 million needed to include an all-weather track and field.

The school held a groundbreaking rally Tuesday to celebrate the beginning of construction. It was an event that has been a long time coming, said Kassie Wenzell, a foundation board member referring to the Northgate Pride project.

At the rally, students gathered and used shovels to start digging. Guests included Mt. Diablo Unified School District Superintendent Gary McHenry and Concord Mayor Mark Peterson.

"We always say it's about the kids and when you are there and handing it to them, it really is," Wenzell said.

"For so many of these kids they thought it would never happen, and now they have the realization that it will."

Construction of the artificial turf field and track will run through the beginning of next year.

During that time, practices and some physical education classes will be held on the school's baseball fields, Wenzell said.

The field has needed attention for some time, with ruts, divots and improper drainage. Water pools on the field and the rough turf has caused student injuries, Wenzell said.

Inadequate track and field conditions have been an ongoing struggle for the school.

It took the football team more than 30 years, but in 2004 the team was finally able to play on its own home field, but nothing like the full sports complex the school is envisioning.

Karishma Bhatia, a rally student organizer, said students are excited to see construction under way.

"The whole student body was there," she said. "I think people are really excited and motivated. It's exciting because our (football) team

is better than previous years, and soon we are going to have an awesome field."

The football team is doing well with a 4-2 record this season, notable since Northgate hasn't won four games in a season since 2001.

Although the field won't be done for this football season, looking forward to next year has students excited.

Those on the school's soccer, lacrosse and track teams, which have never played a home match will be able to feel that home advantage next year.

In 2004, Northgate received goal posts and a scoreboard, which qualified it for home football games.

That was phase one of the Pride Foundation project. The renovation of the track and field, with artificial turf and an all-weather track, is considered phase two. The renovation should be complete by early next year. Phase three, which will cost \$1.5 million, will add lights and bleachers to the stadium.

And while the money for the project is raised, the Pride Foundation can always use more. Any additional funding will be used to install a low pedestrian fence and concrete walkway for crowd control, which would cost \$100,000, Wenzell said.

For information or to donate money, go to www.northgatepride.org, or call 939-6273.

Reach Elisabeth Nardi at 952-2617 or enardi@bayareanewsgroup.com.

All content © 2007- Walnut Creek Journal (CA){PUBLICATION2} and may not be republished without permission.



[Shop Local](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)

[About The Contra Costa Times](#) | [Help](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Site Map](#) | [About MediaNews Group](#) | [RSS Feeds](#)

