

Economic Development Authority
YEAR-END ACTIVITY
SUMMARY 2019

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2019

The Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (EDA) had another strong year in 2019. The EDA established six strategic priorities, from Village Creek reinvestment to enhanced restaurant recruitment and exploring options for a business incubator. The City has made progress in all of these areas and continues to support and develop a thriving economy in Brooklyn Park.

Housing policy in 2019 focused on tenant protections and affordable housing preservation. The City passed the Tenant Notification Ordinance, cofunded a study with the Center of Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota to study housing stability and established a Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) preservation fund.

Brooklyn Park continues to attract new businesses and support a strong industrial sector, leasing an average of 400,000 more square feet of space than was vacated for each of the past five years. The EDA also re-launched a Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) Program and explored models for a business incubator to support budding entrepreneurs. This year's first ever Restaurant Week featured five independently-owned restaurants of a variety of cuisines and brought great publicity to the Brooklyn Park restaurant scene.

BrookLynk, the City's youth employment program, has also expanded this year. Staff capacity grew with the addition of a Program Manager to provide strategic oversight for BrookLynk as it enters its third year housed with the Brooklyn Park EDA. The new staffing team is moving forward to establish new partnerships and enhance its programming in 2020.

METRO Blue Line Extension LRT work continues with the opening of the temporary Park Plaza, a site which is envisioned to be a hub of programming for the next three years near a planned LRT station on 85th Avenue and West Broadway. This year also saw the completion of Cultivate Bottineau, an arts program which supported 26 projects and engaged 37 local artists along corridor cities.

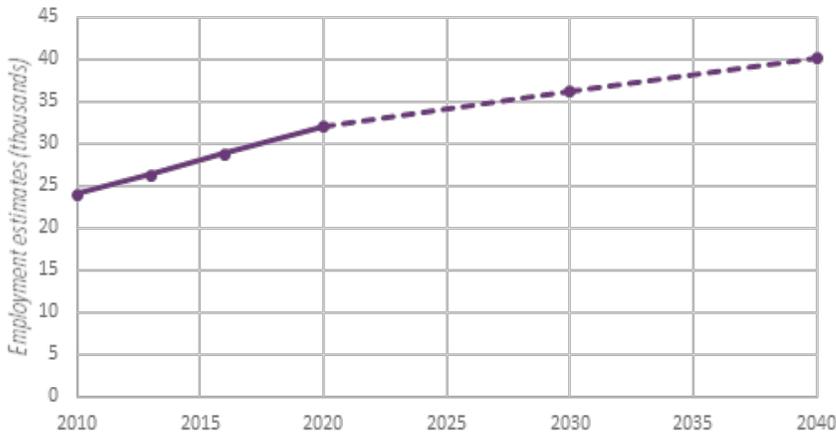
In 2020 the EDA will focus on Opportunity Zone development, exploring wealth-building and homeownership opportunities for residents, revising EDA policies and continuing to advance strategic priorities.



2019 EDA Board left to right: Commissioners Terry Parks, Lisa Jacobson, Mark Mata, Susan Pha, President Jeffrey Lunde, and Commissioners Wynfred Russell and Tonja West-Hafner.

Brooklyn Park: a snapshot

Job growth, 2010-2040



Jobs & projected job growth (data and estimates from Metropolitan Council)

Top 10 employers in Brooklyn Park

1. Target (North Campus)–4,000
2. Caterpillar Paving Products–700
3. North Hennepin Community College–610
4. HyVee–500
5. Medtronic–420
6. Prairie Care–400
7. City of Brooklyn Park–397
8. Lake Regional Medical–395
9. Olympus Surgical Technologies–385
10. GLS Companies–375

1,500+
businesses

100+
restaurants

83,000+
residents
(over 50% people of color)

Median home sale price
2016: **\$179,200**

Median home sale price
2019: **\$265,000**

47.9% increase
in 3 years

*Data from Minneapolis Association of Area Realtors

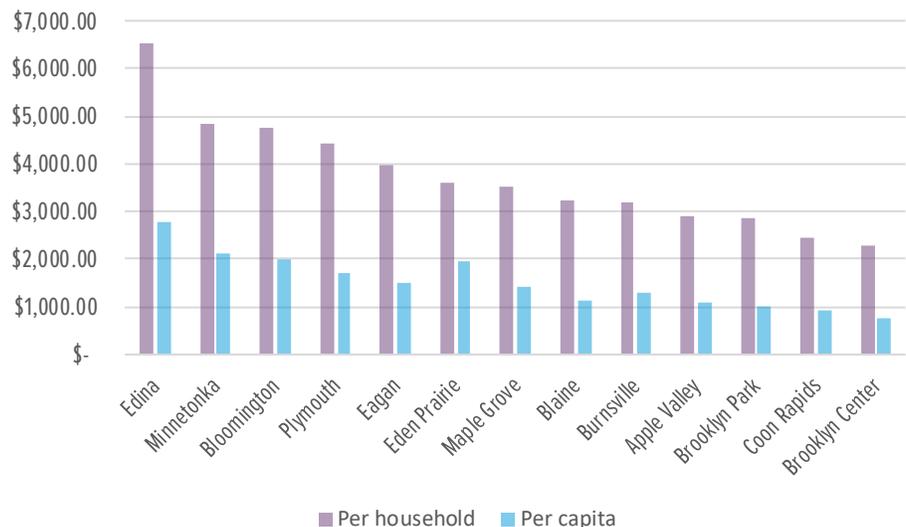
484
parks and public
facilities

31,134
jobs (2018)

\$14,382,917
grant funds secured
since 2017

~1,000
acres undeveloped land

Tax capacity per household and per capita compared with peer cities (2018)





Economic Development Authority

In 1988, the Brooklyn Park City Council established the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to oversee job creation and preservation, enhance the city's tax base, promote the general welfare of the city's residents and assume primary responsibility for development activities. In 1993 the EDA absorbed the work of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), giving the EDA oversight of housing programs, policies and development. The EDA is made up of the seven duly elected and sworn-in members of the City Council and meets every month to discuss projects and initiatives as presented by city staff.

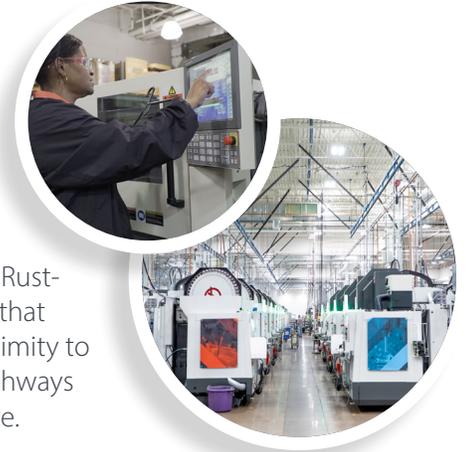
Since its inception the EDA has been integral to a number of projects, including redevelopment of the Village Creek neighborhood, establishment of Northland Business Park, transportation planning and the creation and management of critical housing programs. By striving to maintain and grow relationships with existing and new businesses the EDA also helps to identify and link development and redevelopment opportunities with the proper tools and resources, helping existing businesses grow and prosper while attracting new businesses and industry to the community. BrookLynk, the EDA's employment program for youth who have historically been marginalized from the workplace operated in partnership with Brooklyn Center, equips and connects young professionals with job skills and opportunities in the northwestern suburbs. The EDA also administers housing programs and works to maintain and preserve the existing housing stock in the city by offering a wide range of programs meeting the needs of homeowners, homebuyers, sellers, renters and landlords.

Through its focus on livability, development and redevelopment, the EDA's ultimate goal is to maintain a high quality of life for all Brooklyn Park residents.

EDA supported development activity

Industrial growth

According to CBRE, a commercial real estate firm, Brooklyn Park is one of the most active communities in the market and has increased its industrial base by 25% in the past five years. The city continues to be an attractive space to new and expanding businesses, leasing an average of 400,000 more square feet of space than was vacated for each of the past five years. The addition of companies like Biomerics, Design Ready Controls, Protolabs, Rust-o-leum, Takeda and more have added to the 14 million square feet of industrial businesses that make up about 7,700 of the over 31,000 total jobs in Brooklyn Park. Availability of land, proximity to future Blue Line Extension LRT, diverse population and access to both talent and major highways are all reasons Brooklyn Park employers continue to find the city an attractive place to locate.



Christina's Day Care

Christina's Child Care Center, Inc, an expansion of Christina's current daycare facility in Crystal, is coming to the EDA-owned lot at 7516 Brooklyn Boulevard. This center is unique – designed to fit what community members need, Christina's will be open from 5:30 am to 11:30 pm daily and will allow parents with varied work hours the flexibility to arrange childcare according to their own schedules. The center is planned for an area where approximately one third of the residents are six years old or younger and fills a need for childcare options in that area of the city. The site is located in Brooklyn Park's Village Creek redevelopment area.

Second Harvest Heartland

Second Harvest Heartland, the second largest food bank in the State of Minnesota, held a ribbon cutting at its new Volunteer Center in 2019. The Volunteer Center is part of a larger project to relocate its headquarters to Brooklyn Park. The City partnered with Second Harvest to secure \$18 million in general obligation bond funds from the Minnesota Legislature to complete the renovation of the facility where the headquarters will be located. The entire project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2020.

Clubhouse & The Brooklyn restaurant by D'Amico

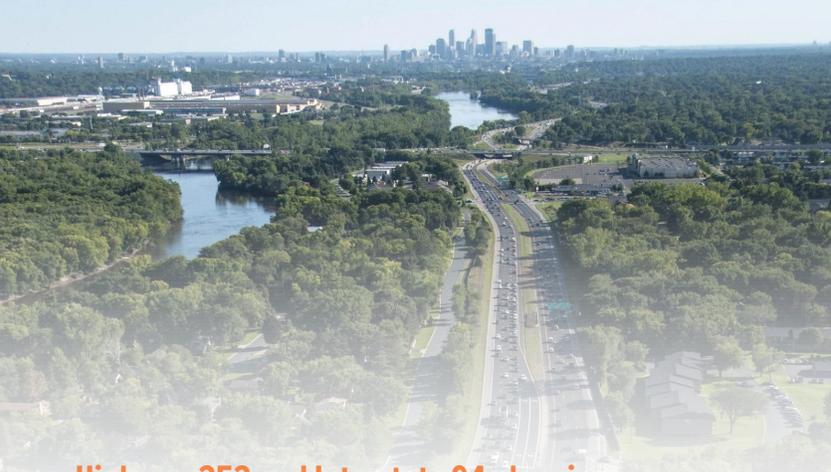
Renovations to the Edinburg USA clubhouse were completed this year! The \$1.5 million renovation added light and views of the golf course from The Brooklyn restaurant, new paneling and beautiful chandeliers in the lower level ballroom and more open space with new painting and tile in the lower level hallway and entrance. The Brooklyn restaurant, now operated by D'Amico, brings updated décor and ambiance as well as an all-new menu.



Center for Innovation and the Arts

The Center for Innovation and the Arts, which is envisioned as a dynamic and inclusive center and a flexible art and cultural facility, took some big steps forward in 2019. This year, the partners of North Hennepin Community College, Metropolitan State University and the City of Brooklyn Park completed a feasibility study for the proposed 83,000 square foot facility. Additionally, Minnesota State College and Universities included the project in the list of capital program recommendations to the state legislature. The Center for Innovation and the Arts is seeking \$6.8 million in State General Obligation Bonds in 2020 for design, \$38 million in bond funding in 2022 for construction and will fundraise the remaining amount from private and public partners. The Center aims to increase arts-related educational opportunities for students and the community while increasing economic prosperity and advancing the quality of life in Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities.





Highway 252 and Interstate 94 planning

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT), Hennepin County, and the cities of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park are working together to reduce congestion and improve safety and reliability on Highway 252 and Interstate 94. Detailed plans for both highways will be developed in 2020-2021, including the planned conversion of Highway 252 into a freeway. Construction is estimated to begin in 2023.

Interchange project at Highway 169 and 101st Avenue N

The interchange project advanced further this year with the 100% plans submitted to MNDOT for review and approval. Acquisition of all land is nearing completion and the final purchase is expected in early 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring with the bulk of the project completed by November 2020 and minor items extending into 2021. The EDA will have remnant parcels from this project available for redevelopment opportunities.

Groundbreakings/grand openings/ribbon cuttings:

This year's openings include: El Rancho Mexican Restaurant, Freddy's Custard and Steakburger, Hampton Inn, Home2Suites, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Nystrom, Pancheros Mexican Grill, Protolabs, Rolls & Bowls, Second Harvest Heartland, Suite Living, The Brooklyn, Urbana Court Apartments and Urbana Place Senior Living.



Summer Blossom

This is the 20th year of the City celebrating its gardens and landscaping. This year's grand prize winners were:



Single Family:
Carmen Teisanu (District 3)



Townhome:
Jorge Adamson



Neighborhood:
Tony & Pat Bianco



Commercial:
Realife Cooperative

EDA priorities #1 and #2:

Plan & promote investment in Village Creek

Pursue projects in the Opportunity Zone

The Opportunity Zone, which encompasses most of the Village Creek redevelopment area, is a federal designation to encourage long-term investments in low-income and urban communities. Since the designation of a Brooklyn Park census tract as an Opportunity Zone in May 2018, staff has attended informational sessions on Opportunity Zone tax credits and advanced a number of projects in this area. Christina's Day Care is moving forward and a dome at Park Center Senior High School that will be open year-round and bring development to the region is expected to open in early 2020. Other promising projects include a commercial kitchen and affordable housing site on Welcome Avenue through developer Devean George and housing and commercial opportunities at the corner of Regent Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard.

Business vitality

Brooklyn Park state rankings

- **4th** for number of manufacturing jobs at **7,700** with **1,500** added in the last 3 years
- **10th** for number of new jobs added since 2015 at **3,600**
- **3rd** fastest job growth rate from 2015 to 2019 at **10%**
- Responsible for approximately **10%** of market absorption for industrial space in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area

Food trucks

The Planning, Environmental Health and and Economic Development divisions worked to make the city more food truck friendly by examining zoning, exploring options for parking, inviting food trucks to city-sponsored events and considering events to promote food trucks. Staff from Takeda, Nilfisk, and Tesla coordinated an event with multiple businesses and food trucks at 93rd Ave and Winnetka Ave. Over 300 people were in attendance at this first major food truck event in Brooklyn Park.



SAC/WAC programs

The Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) and Water Access Charge (WAC) Reduction program was expanded to include small and locally owned businesses including restaurants, commercial businesses and industrial based businesses. The program was created in 2017 and catered only to restaurants and destination businesses. The expanded program was used to forgive outstanding SAC and WAC deferral program loans for both Blue Wolf Brewery and Little Learning Academy and will continue to lower barriers to starting or expanding small businesses in Brooklyn Park.

EDA priority #3:

Business incubator

In spring of 2019, the EDA directed staff to explore incubator concepts as a way to support small businesses in the City of Brooklyn Park. Since then, staff has met with community partners interested in developing an incubator space, done research on various options of developing an incubator, and explored potential funding streams to offset the cost of development and operation of an incubator space. The EDA will continue exploring incubator concepts and models in 2020, including developing options for operations and identifying potential funding sources.

EDA priority #4:

Enhanced restaurant recruitment and marketing

The EDA and Communications teams ramped up restaurant recruitment and marketing this year, creating several new initiatives to showcase the variety of independently-owned restaurants and cuisines available in Brooklyn Park. Restaurant Week was offered this year for the first time, featuring five local businesses with Mexican, Vietnamese, Liberian, Cajun and American-style food. The week reached over 20,000 people on social media and was a huge success. Staff has also begun a Restaurant Corner section in Park Pages and continues to explore ways to highlight the diversity in Brooklyn Park's restaurant scene.

EDA priority #5:

Business Retention & Expansion program

The goal of Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) is to connect with businesses and address their immediate needs, concerns, and questions. Staff this year has worked to rejuvenate the city's BR&E program and has devised a survey, conducted marketing and outreach, and met with businesses of varying industries and sizes. The EDA is also partnering with the Liberian Business Association (LIBA) to connect with 75 small and micro businesses operating in the city by the summer of 2020.





Business Forward Forum

With over 100 people and more than 10 organizations in attendance, this year's Eighth Annual Business Forward Forum was the most well-attended in its history. Local business owners heard from Tiffany Orth, Senior Manager at the MSP area's talent attraction program Make It.MSP, about how to bring new employees to their businesses and support diversity in their workforce. Reviews of the event were very positive and staff continue to explore ways to make the event even more appealing to local businesses next year.

Open to Business

The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) continued to offer business consulting services at City Hall one day a month and by appointment through the Open to Business program. Brooklyn Park residents and business owners used the program more than any other city metro-wide. Consultation topics include business feasibility and planning, operations and logistic management, financial and record-keeping assistance, and other important topics for business owners.

Open to Business in Brooklyn Park

- 53 clients served
- 38% women entrepreneurs, 72% minority entrepreneurs and 45% low-income entrepreneurs
- 3 loans administered for \$883,000
- \$150,000 in funds leveraged
- 5 credit builder loans to Brooklyn Park residents

Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund

The Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) and Job Creation Fund (JCF) are programs run through the State of Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) with the goal of retaining and creating high wage jobs in Minnesota. Brooklyn Park businesses regularly utilize these funds to help fund expansions, relocations and equipment purchases.

In 2019, Star, a multimedia marketing and exhibit creation company, and Takeda, the first major biopharmaceutical company of its kind in the Midwest, closed out their MIF loans after successfully fulfilling their job creation and wage requirements. Together, the two companies have created or retained 359 jobs since 2016 bringing a talented workforce and key assets to the city. This year DEED also awarded MGK \$425,000 through JCF to create or retain a total of 187 jobs in Brooklyn Park.

Business Forward Advisory Board

The Business Forward Advisory Board (BFAB) welcomed three new members in 2018-2019: Anh Tran from Evotronics, a circuit board prototype manufacturer that employs 30 people and has been in the city for almost 5 years; Curt Medina of Daily Dose Café, which has been located in Brooklyn Park for almost 2 years; Matt Rau from Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Brooklyn Park's first biopharmaceutical company that has called the city home for nearly three years; and Mary Kuria from Customized Accounting Solutions Group, LLC, a woman of color owned local business focused on personal and business accounting. Other BFAB members are Jackson George of the Liberian Business Association, Yasmin Hyder of McDonald's, Sonny Kester of American Family Insurance, Annette Lund of Diversified Plastics, Karen Philbin of North Hennepin Community College, Joe Pickett of Primrose and Anthony Watts of US Bank. The Council liaison to BFAB is Councilmember Lisa Jacobson.

BFAB lent its voice to several key projects this year including feedback on food truck friendly policies, discussion about age-friendly community work, ideas about the revamped BR&E program, helping to plan the Business Forward Forum and ongoing discussion about the roll-out of Hennepin County's new organics ordinances.

Housing

Housing program revamp

Homeowner programs this year were redesigned to increase the number of residents making improvements to their homes and to provide needed resources to the community. The redesigned and revamped programs were a huge success, with an instant response rate and funds for multiple programs expended by the end of the year. New programs include the Senior Deferred Loan, Down Payment Assistance, Code Correction and a revised Home Improvement Loan. An On-Bill loan program focusing on energy efficiency upgrades will begin operating in March 2020.

New programs and their usage include:

Senior Deferred Loan Program: 6 loans, \$99,830
 Down Payment Assistance Program: 10 loans, \$100,000
 Home Improvement Loan Program: 6 loans, \$115,692
 Code Correction Loan Program: 1 loan pending
 Home Energy Squad Enhanced: 77 home visits, \$4,000



\$319,522
in loans

Workshops

EDA staff held several successful workshops to promote housing programs this year.

- The City collaborated with Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAPHC) to hold several **Home Stretch Workshops** in 2019. Home Stretch workshops focus on teaching attendees about Brooklyn Park's housing programs, the mortgage process, the purchase decision, the closing steps and housing inspection. The workshop also provided tips on common sense approaches to maintaining a home for potential new homeowners.
- Over 100 people registered for a **Housing Repair Resources Workshop** on financial resources, programs and basic home project repair techniques for homeowners, townhome associations and homebuyers. The June 29th workshop was a collaboration between the City, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity and the Center for Energy and Environment and received very positive feedback from attendees.
- The City hosted a very successful annual **Homeowners Association (HOA) Workshop** on November 16 that was attended by over 75 people. During the workshop, attendees learned about the concept of connecting communication, conflict resolution, financial management and the City's homeowner financial programs.
- On February 14, the EDA held its 27th successful **Real Estate Forum** at Edinburgh USA. The theme was "Fall in Love with Brooklyn Park" and featured Justin Hollis of Minnesota Compass and David Arbit of the Minneapolis Area Association of Realtors as keynote speakers. Attendees had the opportunity to earn continuing education credits from the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the 120 registrants represented real estate professionals throughout the region.



Research on housing stability

In 2019, the Center of Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) at the University of Minnesota began a year-long qualitative research project to investigate the issues of eviction, housing stability and renter quality of life in Brooklyn Park. This project is being co-funded by the EDA, Minnesota Housing and Hennepin County. The research team, led by Dr. Brittany Lewis and Dr. Shana Riddick, have been conducting one-on-one conversations with stakeholders and established an advisory group to help guide the research process in 2020.

Tenant-focused housing ordinances

Building on examples from around the region, the Fair Housing Policy and the Tenant Notification Ordinance strengthen the city's approach regarding housing discrimination and require new owners of rental units to notify tenants before making significant changes to the lease. These are the latest in a series of policy initiatives from the EDA and Council to promote housing stability in Brooklyn Park.

Investment in apartment communities

The EDA prioritizes improving living conditions for all residents and has worked with both property owners and residents to improve the condition of its housing stock for decades. Multifamily housing has been a focus area, and since 2016 the EDA has invested \$6.6 million on direct rehabilitation costs and sponsored over \$30 million in Housing Revenue Bonds for 1,546 units at four apartment communities. Park Haven rehabilitation was completed in 2016 and work continues at Autumn Ridge, Brooks Landing/Brooks Garden and Huntington Place.

Autumn Ridge—366 units

This year the EDA approved an extension of a \$1.2 million loan to Sherman Associates to enable the developer to complete additional work improving overall security, structural integrity, safety and livability at the property. A 5-year landscaping and stormwater retrofit project financed by grants from Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, Shingle Creek Watershed Commission and Sherman Associates is steadily moving forward. Sherman Associates has invested over \$4.7 million in improvements that include enhancing water quality, mitigating flooding on site, creating pollinator habitat, enhancing livability and providing an ongoing opportunity for resident engagement.

Brooks Landing & Brook Gardens—170 units

A \$15 million Housing Revenue Bond sponsored by the City of Brooklyn Park and a \$400,000 rehabilitation loan from the EDA will be used to complete this project by the end of 2020. The property owner plans extensive interior and exterior renovations such as new appliances, roofing, siding, windows, lighting and parking lot resurfacing. Additionally, the developer has partnered with Metro Blooms on a 2-year landscaping and stormwater retrofit project in collaboration with renters that will focus on improving the outdoor spaces at the two properties through the installation of community gardens, pollinator gardens and picnic area equipment.

Huntington Place—834 units

Dominium, representing the Huntington Place ownership group, completed \$8 million in investments into the apartment community in 2019. Additionally, Dominion and Aeon began working together on an off-market property transaction. Aeon is a Twin Cities-based nonprofit affordable housing developer, owner and manager that acquired the 834-home Huntington Place in early 2020. The EDA approved \$5 million in financial support for capital investment from its newly created NOAH preservation fund with Aeon committed to preserving the units at 60% of the area media income (AMI), including preserving 20% of the units at below 50% AMI.

Apartment action plan

In 2010 the City launched an Apartment Action Plan establishing policies and procedures to ensure long-term sustainability of the city's current and future apartment communities. In consultation with stakeholders including property owners and

EDA priority #6:

NOAH preservation fund

In August, the EDA established a Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Program with the goals of preventing displacement and the loss of affordable housing units, improving the quality and management of aging apartment communities and geographically dispersing units preserved as long-term affordable. The EDA approved \$5 million in funds to preserve a goal of 500 NOAH units in 2020, and staff have begun to market and share information with existing owners and potential preservation buyers and developers to meet that goal.



managers, community organizations and housing advocacy groups, the City updated the strategy in 2018. The Apartment Action Plan 2.0 outlines actions around community engagement and communication, sustainability strategies and enforcement and monitoring of apartment communities.

Key items for 2019 included:

- Expansion of Rec on the Go programming at apartment communities to provide mobile recreation opportunities
- Coordination to support resources and physical improvements at apartment communities such as Huntington Place
- Visits with property managers at apartment communities
- Contracting with the University of Minnesota for research into evictions, housing stability and renter quality of life in Brooklyn Park



Transitional housing program and Brooklyn Avenues for Youth

Brooklyn Park’s short-term transitional housing program works with homeless families to help them move towards long-term housing stability. Simpson Housing provides families with supportive services that include intensive case management, subsidized rental housing through the Hennepin County HOME program and individualized services that focus on life skills, positive parenting, education and employment. In the last two years the EDA has invested over \$230,000 in capital improvements at the property primarily through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Brooklyn Avenues is a 12-bed short-term housing facility with intensive support services for homeless youth aged 16-21. The EDA-owned facility opened in 2015 and is managed and operated by Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis. The Brooklyn Avenues program is individually designed to meet the immediate needs of homeless youth and to equip them with tools to grow into healthy, independent adults.

Avenues by the numbers 2019



Workforce development

BrookLynk, a youth employment program that equips and connects emerging young professionals who have historically been marginalized from the workplace with essential job skills, continues to grow! 2019 was a year of transition and growth as the program wrapped up its second year as a fully cooperated program between the cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. This year marked a full transition in staff saying farewell to Luis Saldado-Herrera, former Program Coordinator, and adding a new Program Manager position filled by Catrice O'Neal who brings 12 years of experience in youth development and program management. BrookLynk also welcomed Merissa Murray as Program Assistant and Paul Vang as Program Coordinator. With new leadership and a whole new team, BrookLynk is moving rapidly forward to build partnerships and programming for 2020. Below is a look at 2019 program outcomes.

BrookLynk Advisory Board

Curt Boganey, City of Brooklyn Center
Francis Best, BrookLynk alumni representative
Jay Stroebel, City of Brooklyn Park
Meg Beekman, City of Brooklyn Center
Prad Pathirana, Cummins Corporation
Rebecca Gilgen, Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth
Roseline Ameyaw, BrookLynk alumni representative
Sue Schmitz, Hennepin Technical College
Vicki Erickson, Topline

BrookLynk by the numbers:



\$25,000+
in wages earned by
youth interns

233 participants in the
alumni network



290 youth trained with
essential job skills



5 BrookLynk interns hired by
BrookLynk employer partners



113 internships
coordinated

91%
of supervisors
were satisfied
with their intern
match



100%
of youth interns
were satisfied
with their
experience

**Youth
demographics**

93%
youth of color

80%
qualify for free and
reduced lunch

55%
first or second
generation immigrants

33%
of interns live or attend
school in Brooklyn Center

67%
of interns live or attend
school in Brooklyn Park

Light Rail Transit

The City continued work with Hennepin County and other key partners on a wide variety of “beyond the rails” projects that help support the METRO Blue Line Extension.



Bottineau Corridor wayfinding

The Bottineau corridor wayfinding project plan was completed in December. The consultant team led by SRF and Visual Communications worked with the community to identify key community destinations and connections for each station area and developed sign designs that can be implemented at a future time.

Bottineau marketing and branding

Over summer and fall 2019, Neka Creative led a robust stakeholder-driven process to develop a brand identity, tagline and logo for the Bottineau corridor. Northwest Crossing was chosen as the brand identity for the corridor. Corridor cities include Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Minneapolis and Robbinsdale.

Connect Blue Line Now! Coalition

The Connect Blue Line Now! Coalition is a group of city leaders from Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, New Hope, Golden Valley, and Robbinsdale who are united in making sure the METRO Blue Line Light Rail (BLRT) Extension project becomes a reality for the Northwest metropolitan area and the region.

The goal of the Coalition are to:

- Communicate with decision-makers in Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota and Washington D.C. about the benefits of the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Extension project
- Ensure that federal dollars will be granted to fund the project through lobbying practices
- Give local decision-makers, community organizations, and residents common language to use while talking about the BLRT project and its benefits to the communities in the Northwest Metro

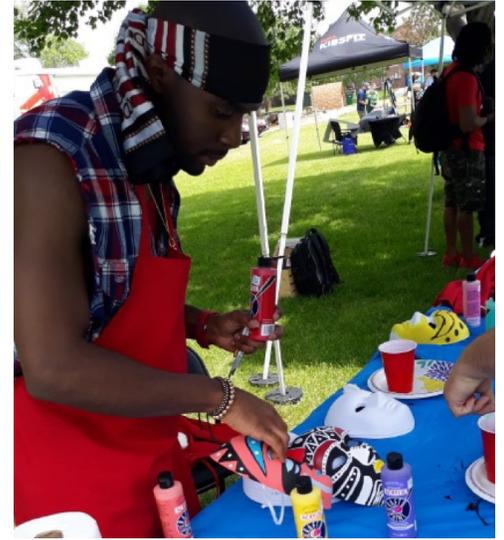


Cultivate Bottineau

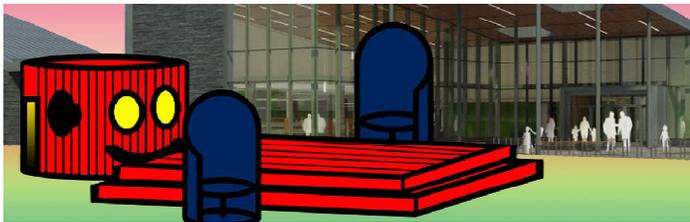
The two-year Cultivate Bottineau arts initiative wrapped up with 26 projects completed and 37 artists identified. Projects included performance and interactive arts activities at events, murals, mobile arts tools, and artist-designed public space furnishings. Over the two-year period, artists mounted participatory projects and generated positive media attention at Tater Daze in Brooklyn Park, Whiz Bang Days in Robbinsdale and Market in the Valley Family Day in Golden Valley. For more details visit <https://springboardforthearts.org/cultivate/>

Temporary plaza

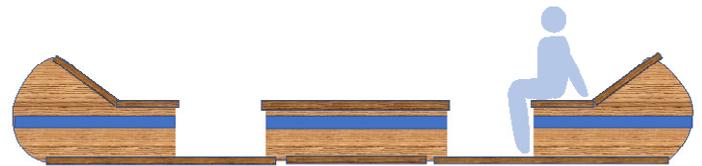
Work progressed on the temporary plaza at West Broadway and 85th Avenue through a grant from Hennepin County. The City's Operations & Maintenance crews finished installation of pathways through the site in October. Next steps include developing the nature-based play area and installation of two public realm artists' pieces in spring 2020. This work is a collaboration among Community Development, Recreation & Parks, Operations & Maintenance, Hennepin County Library and North Hennepin Community College.



Brooklyn Park resident and artist Geno Okok at Tater Daze



Concept drawing for "Robot Park" by Nick Knutson



Concept drawing for "In the Same Boat" by Mike Klein

Northwest Crossing development implementation tool

Hennepin County worked with corridor cities to develop an interactive PDF tool that combines aerial imagery, graphics, and commercial market data to market developable land along the Bottineau corridor to site selectors. Once complete, the tool will be available online.



Brooklyn Boulevard / Opportunities / Potential Sites

