



Economic Development Authority

2024 Annual Report

Brooklyn Park 

City of Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

www.brooklynpark.org (763 424-8000)

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If you need this information in another language or format or disability accommodations, email access@brooklynpark.org or call **763-424-8000**.

Si usted necesita esta información en español llame **763-424-8000**.

Yog xav tau kev pab, thov hu rau **763-424-8000** lawv mam li nrhiav ib tus neeg txhais lus rau koj.

Message from the Executive Director

I want to start by saying Thank You. Thank You for those who had the confidence in me to continue the industry-leader approach to economic development. Thank You for entrusting in me the ability to play a small role in helping an amazing team navigate complex economic initiatives. The Community, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), and the Brooklyn Park Team have been extremely welcoming as a new Team Member. This inclusive and welcoming environment really shines brightly in everything we do.

Brooklyn Park is fortunate to be able to deliver truly innovating and impactful economic strategies to support our amazing multicultural community. From traditional economic development strategies to unique, local workforce development programs to true equity-focused economic programs, Brooklyn Park has led the State and Region in equitable outcomes. Whether it is BrookLynk, our youth-based workforce development program or our Brooklyn Park Small Business Center (BPSBC), Brooklyn Park leads the way to economic prosperity for all members of our community. We can't have economic development without workforce. We can't have workforce without housing and workforce development. Each piece is integral to our success and sets us apart from the rest.

The EDA is focused on new economic growth that adds value, tax base, and jobs for the community couple with high-quality design. From the BioTech Innovation in the Northwest part of the City to Brooklyn Boulevard in the South, the EDA is committed to building the tax base to the tune of \$3 Billion Dollars to help sustain and enhance needed communitywide services and support.

We certainly have challenges ahead but are ready to meet these challenges head on. Aging retail centers need new investment and other support from the EDA. Aging affordable housing also needs new investment to keep up with current housing needs. Our role in facilitating partnerships is going to be evermore important in the coming years.

Team BP is looking forward to an amazing and inclusive economy of the future.

Sincerely,



Economic Development Authority
Executive Director



Introduction

Overview

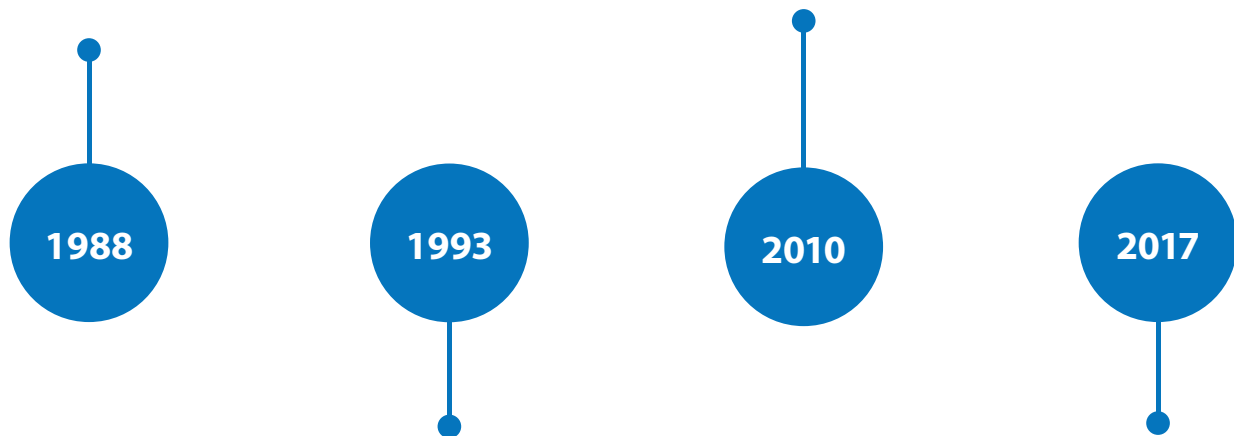
The Economic Development Authority (EDA) focuses on tax base growth, job growth, and improving the quality of life for Brooklyn Park residents and businesses. The EDA seeks to ensure its investment contributes to an economy that works for everyone through the implementation of equitable programs and policies.

The EDA is made up of the seven elected and sworn-in members of the city council and meets once a month to discuss projects and initiatives as presented by city staff. Since its inception, the EDA has been integral to projects, including redevelopment of EDA owned land, funding housing projects, transportation planning, leveraging outside funding from state and federal sources, and the creation and management of critical housing and small business programs.

History

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 the City.

The Apartment Action Plan was first established and focused on the long-term sustainability of the city's current and future apartment complexes. The updated plan focuses on tenant engagement and communications.



The EDA absorbed the work of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). This action gave the EDA oversight of housing and redevelopment activities in the city.

EDA staff collaborated closely with a range of stakeholders—including community organizations, housing advocacy groups, property managers, and owners—to advance key housing policies and initiatives. This collaborative effort led to two major outcomes: an updated Apartment Action Plan and the adoption of a new Mixed-Income Housing Policy.

EDA Activity At-A-Glance

14 Meetings



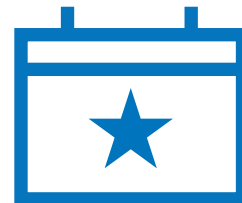
5 Work Sessions



27 Resolutions

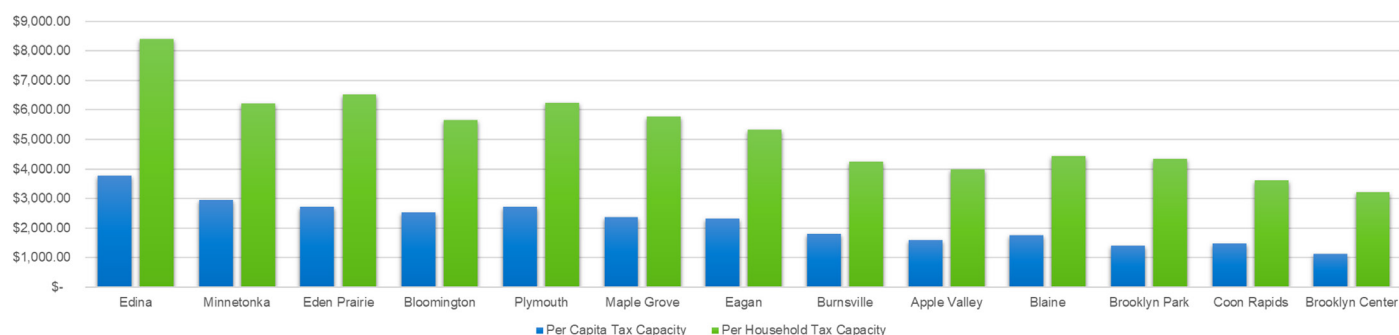


5 Events



Tax Capacity Per Household and Per Capita Compared with Peer Cities (2024)

Brooklyn Park is working to build our tax base to provide the retail, restaurants, and destination desired by our community while keeping our cost for services reasonable.



Groundbreaking and Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies

- Enrichment Skin Aesthetic Clinic | January 2024
- Plush Lounge | March 2024
- Noble Gas Inc. DBA Holiday | April 2024
- Angels Living | August 2024
- Decatur Landing, Phase II | October 2024
- Reyes Restaurant | December 2024
- Redline Athletics | December 2024

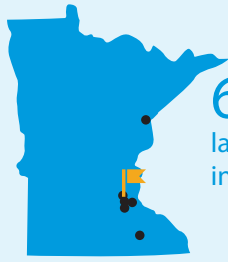
Brooklyn Park

Unique. United. Undiscovered.

Snapshot of the city 2025



Who we are...



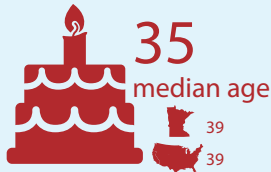
6th largest city in the state



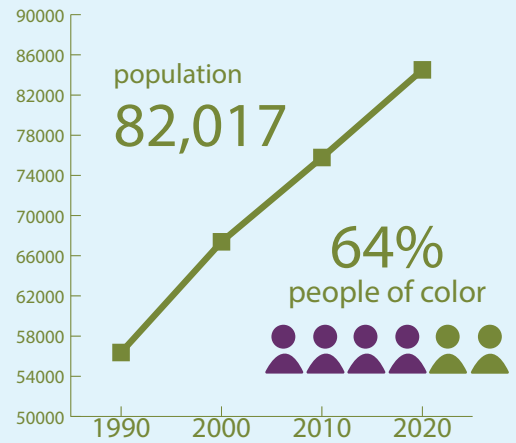
1/4 were born outside U.S.
Africa 13%, Asia 9%, Latin America 3%



1/3 speak a language other than English at home
Top languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, various other Asian and African languages



35 median age



What we have...



\$340,000 median home sale price
↓3% from 2022



Every home is within walking distance to a park



72 miles of paved trails



60 parks

50,000+ jobs projected by 2040



31 established neighborhoods



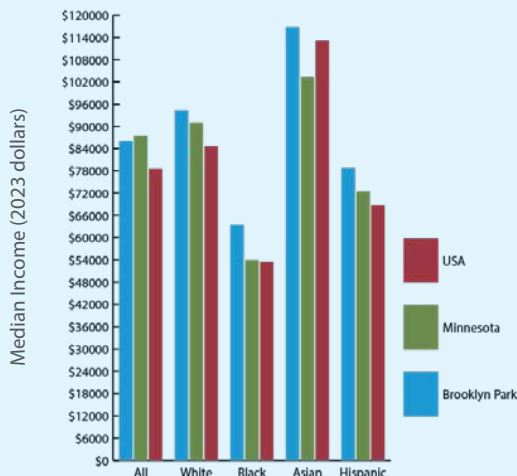
1,700+ businesses
100+ restaurants



1,000 acres of undeveloped land

Where we're going...

Median Income by Race and Region



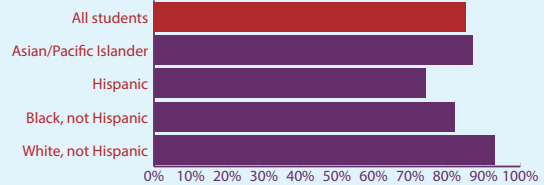
\$85,964 median household income³



\$1B invested in infrastructure²



85% graduation rate¹



3.7% unemployment rate



3.9%
5.2%

¹ Includes Champlin Park, Osseo, Robbinsdale Cooper, Prairie Seeds Academy, and Park Center High Schools
² Includes light rail transit construction and W Broadway Avenue reconstruction

Sources: American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minneapolis Association of Realtors, MN Department of Education, Hennepin County, City of Brooklyn Park

Highlights of 2024:

Decatur Landing Groundbreaking



In October 2024, the City of Brooklyn Park, in partnership with Real Estate Equities and Big-D Construction, celebrated the groundbreaking of Decatur Landing - Phase II, a multifamily mixed-income housing development that will bring approximately 300 new apartment units to Brooklyn Park. The project will feature a blend of affordable and market-rate housing.

Christina's Child Care

In November 2024, the Economic Development Authority (EDA) adopted a resolution to approve a first amendment to purchase and development contract with Christina's Day Care (Christina's). Christina's has been working with the EDA since 2019 on a new daycare facility planned for EDA-owned land at 7516 Brooklyn Blvd. Previous actions include approving the sale of the land to Christina's, approving purchase and development contract for the project, and approving a business subsidy in the amount of \$100,000 to Christina's in the form of a write down. Christina's has a mandatory public purpose to utilize the Business Subsidy Act funding. City staff have identified that this development provides a neighborhood level amenity in the form of new quality, affordable childcare to the surrounding community. The project has now broken ground.

Completed Tessman Ridge Development



Duffy Development Company (Duffy) broke ground last year on the previously owned EDA land at 6900 85th Avenue North. December 1st the development was officially completed and fully occupied before construction was finished. Phase I includes 71 units total with 8 efficiency, 12 one-bedroom units, 32 two-bedroom, 14 three-bedroom and 5 four-bedroom units.

Fidel's Place (New Development Model)

A proposal for a new construction high-end restaurant, Fidel's Place, located outside the Brooklyn Park Small Business Center at the intersection of W Broadway and Brooklyn Boulevard. This is the Northwind Plaza parking lot at 7944-7984 Brooklyn Boulevard and is currently owned by the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (EDA). The applicant is requesting a large amount of financial support from the EDA to develop but they will continue to work with the EDA to make this new development viable.

Economic Development Authority Board



President

Hollies Winston



Vice President

Nichole Klonowski



Treasurer

Christian Ericksen



Commissioner

Boyd Morson



Commissioner

Xp Lee



Commissioner

Tony McGarvey



Commissioner

Maria Tran

Economic Development Authority Staff

The EDA is staffed by the Community Development Department.



Executive Director
Tim Gladhill
Community Development
Director



Assistant Executive Director
Jay Stroebel
City Manager



Secretary
Seng Moua
Program Assistant



Pictured from left to right, starting with the second row, followed by the first row.

Josephine Thao
Project Facilitator

Asma Jihad
Intern
(May 2024 - February 2025)

Felicia Jappah
Project Coordinator – Pandemic Response

Seng Moua
Program Assistant

Dylan Armstead
Development Project Coordinator;
(September - October)
Senior Project Manager
(October - Present)

Malcolm Hicks
Business Development Coordinator;
Interim Economic Development and Housing
Director
(December - Present)

Tim Gladhill
Community Development Director

John Kinara
Housing and Redevelopment Coordinator

Former Staff (not pictured)

Kim Berggren
Community Development Director
(January - May)

Mercy Nyamao
BrookLynk Intern
(June - August)

Michelle Basham
Economic Development and Housing Director
(March - November)

Sarah Abe
Development Project Coordinator
(January - July)
Senior Project Manager
(July - September)

Development

Overview

The EDA supports various private development projects across the city for the purpose of tax base development and community vitality. Highlights in 2024 include a new phase of construction on an apartment community in Brooklyn Park. The EDA has also continued to support visioning with emerging developers for several EDA-owned properties that have been supported by Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) pre-development grants.

Development Highlights

Blue Line Extension Municipal Consent

The Blue Line Extension (BLE) is planned to run from Target Headquarters in Brooklyn Park through Crystal, Robbinsdale, and end at Target Field in Minneapolis. Five of the twelve stations along the 13.4-mile route are in Brooklyn Park. On Monday September 9, 2024, Brooklyn Park City Council held a public hearing and voted on September 23rd on municipal consent to approve the BLE plan as submitted



Northwest Area Plan

An infographic titled "Northwest Growth Area Plan Process" with four numbered steps: 1. Discover (December 2024 - January 2025), 2. Discuss (February - May 2025), 3. Decide (June - August 2025), and 4. Develop (2026 and beyond). Each step includes a brief description of the activities involved in that phase.

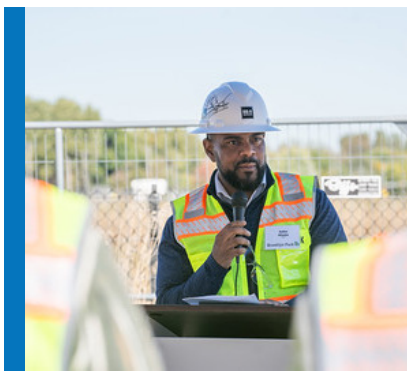
The City of Brooklyn Park is developing a plan for development of its 700-acre Northwest Growth Area. The plan will include considerations of a new biotechnology district and other industries, a variety of housing and commercial options, public parks and trails, and integration with Blue Line Rail Transit station are planning, among other features. The project began in fall 2024 and is expected to be completed and approved at all levels by the end of 2025.

Development Projects

In 2024, numerous dynamic development projects were initiated, advanced, or successfully completed with the support of the EDA.

Decatur Landing Apartments II – Real Estate Equities

In 2024, the EDA approved a development agreement for Phase II of the project located on a portion of 9500 Decatur Drive. Phase II broke ground on October 4th, 2024, and will be similar to Phase I's 175 units of multifamily housing. Using income averaging, it has an average rent affordable to a family making 60% AMI. The majority of the development is 2- and 3-bedroom units with 1-bedroom units also available. Amenities include a fitness center, community room, tot lot and an outdoor grilling/patio area for each phase. This project received TIF and a long-term loan from the EDA's Housing Set Aside from the EDA.



Former Park & Ride Site and Oxbow Commons Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

The year 2024 saw the revamping of a 2022 Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for seeking a development partner at the former Noble Avenue Park-and-Ride and Oxbow Commons sites north of highway 610. This ambitious project is ultimately seeking a developer to purchase and develop two locations, which are about a mile apart. The EDA strategically seeks mixed-use development proposals to possess both commercial aspects and dense multi-family components. The EDA approved of this new RFQ in August, with it opening up for proposals in late September. The proposal deadline on November 18th saw the city receive four proposals. The EDA approved partnerships with Bader Companies, Gramercy Companies, and Kraus Anderson to explore project feasibility throughout 2025 and 2026.

Tessman Ridge Apartments – Duffy Development

A 71-unit apartment building at 7900 85th Avenue, which broke ground in June 2023, was completed in 2024. This was Phase I of a multi-phased project and began as a partnership between the EDA and North Hennepin Community College (NHCC), which approached the EDA as a partner to develop excess land into housing that could be accessible to students. The 71-unit mixed-income apartment building has unit sizes from efficiencies up to 4-bedrooms and units held for families at 30%, 50%, 60%, and 80% Area Median Income (AMI), and some market rate units. The project received a land contribution and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) from the EDA.

Predevelopment Grants

In 2021, the EDA received three predevelopment grants from the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Demonstration Account grant program. Work completed on these projects in 2024 includes:

7701 Brooklyn Boulevard

Zane Commons LLC has partnered with a consultant to explore a potential New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) project, which would incorporate adjacent land owned by the Economic Development Authority (EDA). The owner's vision is to redevelop the site into a mixed-use development featuring commercial space and multifamily apartment units. As part of this effort, the Zane Commons team submitted an updated concept plan and proforma for the EDA's review, reflecting the potential use of NMTC financing. In addition, a reimbursement request was submitted for expenses related to design workshops, site planning, and market and feasibility studies.

The Villas Townhomes

Cross Properties, LLC has completed several reinvestment projects at the site, including interior unit upgrades and parking lot resurfacing with a mill and overlay. The developer continues to explore a financially feasible infill development vision for the property. Additionally, the developer has engaged a private development group to further explore potential development concepts.

BioTech Innovation District

In May 2024, the Minnesota Legislature approved a BioTechnology Innovation District in the City of Brooklyn Park. The Brooklyn Park BioTech Innovation District will further help the city become a hub of regional growth and economic success. The District is estimated to generate 10,000 new jobs and 3,000 additional housing units, playing a crucial role in addressing workforce disparities that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (POC) in Brooklyn Park and throughout the region. The BioTech Innovation District is part of the broader Northwest Growth Area Plan, an effort currently underway to determine broader land uses and public infrastructure needs, set to complete in Fall 2025.

Goals of the BioTech Innovation District include:

1. Equitable Job Creation

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota's sixth largest and most diverse city with approximately 60% BIPOC residents, aims to address local health, income, and safety disparities through the creation of quality jobs. The District would leverage programs like BrookLynk to connect youth and underserved populations with education and employment opportunities in the BioTech Sector.

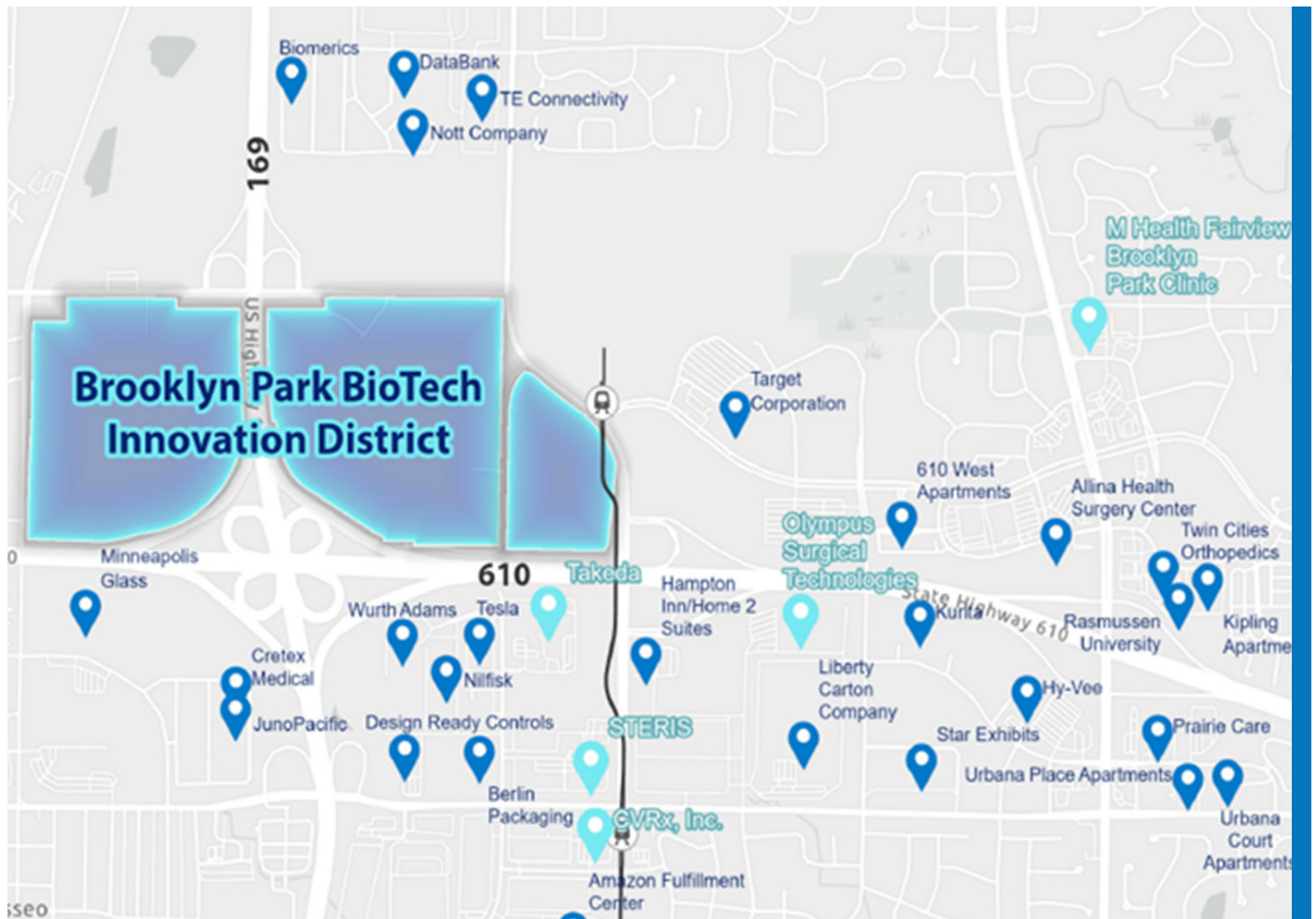
2. Innovation

The BioTechnology market, now projected to grow from \$1.38 trillion in 2023 to \$4.25 trillion by 2033, presents an opportunity for the City and Minnesota to become industry leaders through a mixed-use district that attracts innovative, leading, and emerging companies. This advancement would drive progress in personalized medicine, food security, and environmental sustainability.

3. Economic Development

Building upon existing partnerships with leading health technology companies already existing within the city, Brooklyn Park's nearly 700 developable acres could support new BioTech manufacturing, research and development, and be accompanied by growth in commercial and residential district. The strategic investment within Medical Alley's healthcare ecosystem would establish the northwest metro as a national and international destination for BioTechnology while reducing regional disparities.

In August 2024, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek a consultant to aid in the momentous project of ultimately creating the BioTech District. The RFP saw proposals submitted from 8 different firms, most of which organizations with an international presence. Fall of 2024 and Winter 2025 saw city staff conduct interviews with each of the proposals. The EDA has preliminarily selected a joint proposal from Fairmount Properties along with Buro Happold to help the City navigate implementation of the BioTech Innovation District.



Business Vitality

Partnerships

Brooklyn Park Development Corporation

The Brooklyn Park Development Corporation (BPDC) serves as a vital mechanism, offering financial resources to bolster small businesses in the city through low-interest loans and innovative financial programs. The dedicated Board, consisting of five community members and two City Council/EDA representatives, plays a crucial role in steering the organization toward fostering economic growth and community development.

Revolving Loan Fund

The Revolving Loan Fund is a cornerstone initiative aimed at facilitating the expansion of small to medium-sized businesses in Brooklyn Park. It supports the growth of existing or new businesses in the community with loan amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$300,000. The fund can be utilized for diverse purposes, including the acquisition of real-estate, the purchase of fixed assets, leasehold improvements, debt refinancing, and energy efficiency upgrades.

Microbusiness Loan Program

The Microbusiness Loan Program reflects the BPDC's dedication to supporting small businesses. Designed for emerging enterprises, it offers financial assistance ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 at a competitive 2% interest rate. The program stands out for its simplified underwriting process, tailored to meet the unique needs of microbusinesses. On December 1, the second round of the program was launched, with \$200,000 from the BPDC and matching funds from STEARNS Bank, totaling \$400,000 in available funding. In 2024, the BPDC awarded 14 loans, distributing a total of \$135,000 to local businesses.

Code Correction Program

The Commercial Code Correction Loan Program helps Brooklyn Park businesses address code violations and improve property safety with loans ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 (larger amounts considered case-by-case). Funds can be used for structural repairs, exterior improvements, signage, lighting, parking lot upgrades, and other necessary corrections. Loans have a fixed 2% interest rate, up to a 15-year term, and require a 10% match. Eligible borrowers must own or lease commercial property in Brooklyn Park with an active corrective order. Multiple loans are allowed, and work must be completed within 120 days of closing.

Minneapolis Northwest Tourism

Minneapolis Northwest Tourism, led by new President and CEO Leslie Wright, promotes travel, hospitality, and economic growth in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. Minneapolis Northwest Tourism is now evermore solely focused on the success of The Brooklyns (Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center). With over 20 years of leadership experience, Wright aims to enhance Brooklyn Park's visibility by highlighting local attractions, supporting businesses, and fostering community engagement. Through this partnership, Brooklyn Park continues to grow as a key destination for visitors and economic development.

Brooklyn Park Small Business Center

The Brooklyn Park Small Business Center (BPSBC) continues to thrive in 2024 as a vital hub for entrepreneurs and small businesses. With retail spaces at full occupancy and coworking and office memberships continuing to grow, the BPSBC provides an affordable, collaborative environment for local businesses to grow. Originally developed to prevent displacement and support economic development, the center remains a model for innovation and community-driven business success. As Brooklyn Park prepares for future growth, including the anticipated light rail transit project, the BPSBC remains a cornerstone for business support, fostering entrepreneurship and economic resilience in the city.

Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund Awards

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) continues to support business growth through key economic development programs. The Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) provides financing to help businesses expand their workforce and retain high-quality jobs, focusing on industrial, manufacturing, and technology sectors to strengthen the local and state tax base. Additionally, the Job Creation Fund (JCF) offers up to \$2 million in financial incentives to new and expanding businesses that meet job creation and capital investment goals while enhancing economic vitality through property improvements and high-paying job opportunities.

Rotation Engineering

On August 16, 2024, Rotation Engineering was awarded up to \$640,000 in funding from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) through the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF), along with up to \$295,719 from the Job Creation Fund (JCF). This financial support will help the company create 22 new jobs and expand its operations in Brooklyn Park. The project includes a 26,800-square-foot addition to their existing 38,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, increasing the total size to 64,800 square feet. The expansion will also involve purchasing a new 400-ton punch press and investing in automation to boost production capacity and ensure continued competitiveness in the industry.

Sewer Access Charge (SAC) and Water Access Charges (WAC) Fee Reduction and Deferral Program

The SAC and WAC Fee Reduction and Deferral Program offers eligible businesses the opportunity to reduce their total SAC and WAC charges and defer up to 80% of the fees at a 3% interest rate over a 5-year term. JJ's Chicken and Fish, located at 7749 Zane Avenue North, took advantage of this program, deferring over \$20,000 in fees. This deferral allowed the business to prioritize construction and upgrades, improving both its financial stability and operational performance.

Community Partnership Programs (EDA and ARPA Funding)

Overview

The Community Partnership Program (CPP) initiative created by the EDA in 2021 was extended to 2024 to continue to fund community-based organizations engaged in critical economic inclusion work. The EDA CPP funds were combined with the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as part of the City's ARPA/CPP community funding opportunity to provide funding to community partners from 2022 - 2024.

Following on the success of the program from 2022, in November 2023, the council approved \$294,438 in additional funding for Ten new community partners to begin work in 2024. The EDA awarded \$75,938 in funding to six of the ten community partners. The organizations were awarded ARPA//CPP contract amounts between \$18,000-\$49,000 to provide workforce development and training programs, basic support to residents including food distribution, and technical assistance to non-profits and businesses to improve organizational efficiency. Partnership work ended in December 2024.

Overall, from 2022-2024, the City has awarded funding to 61 community partners responding to the after effects of the pandemic and providing critical services to assist residents. The table lists community partners awarded EDA funding under the ARPA/CPP initiative from 2022-2024.

Organization	EDA Award Amount	Program
African Career Education Resource Inc (ACER)*	\$51,172	Small business technical support
Community Mediation Restorative Services (CMRS)	\$62,500	Housing Navigation outreach
Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)	\$31,250	Navigation/outreach
Lao Assistance Center of MN (LACM)*	\$79,297	Housing Navigation support
Asian Media Access	\$8,030	Job training/coaching – youth/young adult/senior outreach support
More of Liberia (MOL)	\$27,500	Employment services
CAPI	\$8,030	Resource sessions around access to workforce development programs available to community
Hired	\$25,758	Career Employment
LIFEWORKS	\$18,858	Support the work of the Manufacturer’s Collective to promote opportunities for high paying jobs
MetroNorth Chambers	\$9,026	Outreach to community toward employment - training and job placemen
HACER	\$6,240	Navigation/job placement/outreach – Workforce

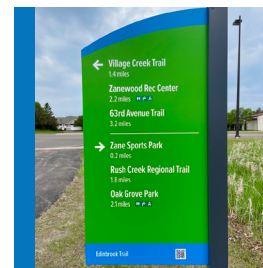
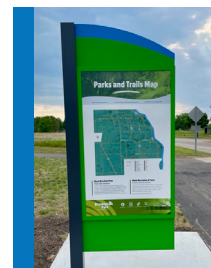
*Awarded EDA funding twice

Infrastructure Investment

Wayfinding Implementation Project

Citywide wayfinding was identified as a priority project in the 2018 Park Board referendum and associated work plan. The City's branding initiative and park system plan also discussed the need for wayfinding. Finally, the city has an opportunity to leverage light rail transit (LRT) investment for the development of a comprehensive citywide wayfinding system that links key community destinations, local and regional trails, as well as the LRT.

In January 2024, the EDA accepted bids and awarded a contract in the amount of \$846,682 to SignArt Company for Phases I and II of the citywide wayfinding project.



Edinburgh USA Clubhouse

The EDA-owned Edinburgh USA Clubhouse promotes economic vitality in the community. Tavern at Greenhaven now operates and manages the restaurant, beginning in 2025. The City's Recreation and Parks Department operates the event center, St. Andrews Club and the 18-hole golf course, driving range, and pro shop.



Housing Improvements

Huntington Place

The EDA previously invested \$4.5 million for physical improvements to the property. Aeon, the non-profit owner of Huntington Place, has received significant public funding to improve the property including \$3 million from Hennepin County, \$4 million from the Federal government, and \$10 million from the State. Staff communicates regularly with stakeholders and coordinates a regular community meeting with residents in collaboration with staff from community engagement and police.

Unfortunately, financial conditions continue to introduce strain and destabilization to the Huntington Place Community. Aeon, together with its Primary Lender for Huntington Place (NEF: National Equity Fund), have requested that the City forgive its \$3.5 million loan (\$3.8 million with accrued interest) in order to facilitate a sale to a new Buyer (MAS Capital Group). The EDA is committed to balancing protection of existing residents with protecting the Financial Health of the EDA and City. The EDA has approved loan forgiveness, under the condition the city can access a previously approved, but unused \$4 million federal grant. The EDA is also committed to minimize displacement when legally allowed and assist tenants in transition with available resources.

Stonybrook Housing Improvement Area (HIA)

The EDA approved \$1.2 million through the Housing Improvement Area (HIA) loan program for Stonybrook Property Owners Association. The funds were used for the replacement of all the existing roadways and driveways, mill and overlay, restriping, landscaping as well as the installation of new exterior lighting within the Homeowners Association (HOA) as per the current layout.

Located at 30084-69484 84th Court North, Stonybrook Townhomes were built in 1970s and consist of 88 buildings with 352 individually owned townhome units. Change to construction wrapped up in the spring of 2024.

Housing Policies

The Local Housing Trust Fund

The City Council established a Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) that will allow the City to take advantage of matching funds available from the state for housing for individuals at or below 115% AMI. The LHTF helped to create a policy framework to accommodate the local housing aid funds. In 2017, the State of Minnesota took various actions to support the development of housing in various communities across the state with increased funding derived from the metro sales tax. The City received a portion of the sales tax funds in the amount of \$446,000 in 2024. The City anticipates receiving about \$942,000 of these funds in 2025 and going forward.

The EDA has allocated these funds toward the NOAH Preservation Program and Homeowner Financial Programs.

NOAH Preservation Program

The Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Program was established by the EDA in 2019, to provide funding to developers and rental property owners for the acquisition and/or re-habilitation of Brooklyn Park NOAH rental properties. The goals of the program are to:

- Prevent displacement of current residents and loss of affordable housing by securing long-term affordability
- Improve the physical quality and management of existing aging apartments; and
- Geographically disperse units preserved as long-term affordable throughout the city, with an emphasis on mixed income projects.

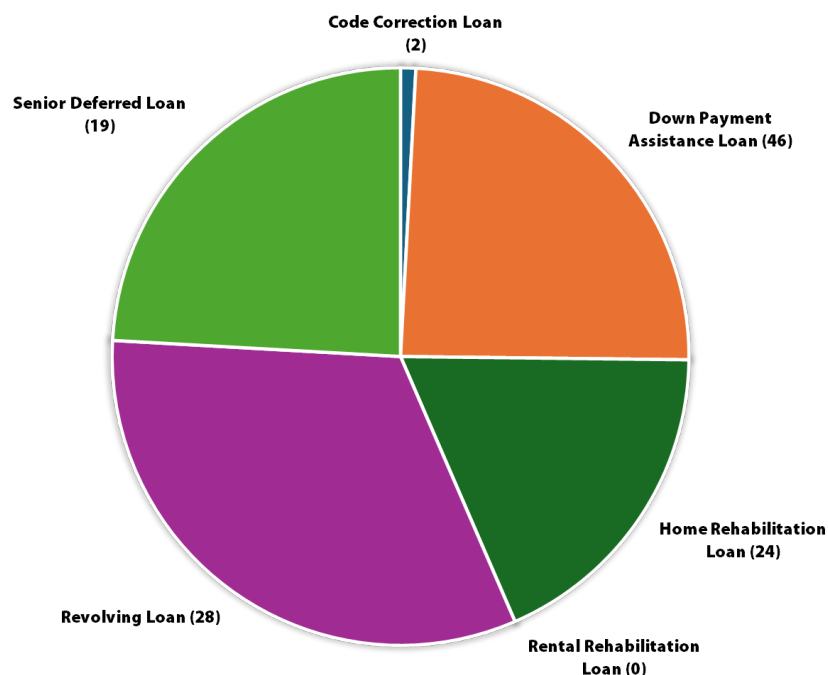
Homeowner Financial Resources

The EDA administers several housing reinvestment programs that provide financial resources to first time homebuyers and single-family and townhome homeowners in the community. Homeowner programs were redesigned in 2019 to increase the use of these programs. Almost \$1.3 million was expended in 2024 for all the housing programs administered by Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) and Hennepin County with the support of EDA staff.

Homeowner Loan Programs

- Code Correction Loan: 2; Loans \$13,500
- Down Payment Assistance Loan: 46; Loans \$385,000
- Home Rehabilitation / Emergency Deferred Loan: 24; Loans \$290,000
- Rental Rehabilitation Loan: 0
- Revolving Loan: 28; Loans \$512,580
- Senior Deferred Loan: 19; Loans \$381,575

2024 Loan Types Closed



Housing Services

Brooklyn Avenues

7210 76th Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

The EDA owns a 12-bed housing facility that works with young people experiencing homelessness to help them move towards long-term housing stability. The building was constructed by the EDA and has been leased to Avenues for Youth for \$1 per year since February 2015. Avenues provides a safe and stable shelter, as well as intensive support services for homeless youth ages 16 through 21 from the northwestern suburbs.

Statistics

- Brooklyn Avenues supported 57 youth (2024)
- 31 youth lived at Brooklyn Avenues an average of 154 days
- 13 female, 13 male, 3 trans youth, and 2 non-binary youth
- Average age is 19 years old
- 86% moved to stable housing on exit
- 63% to live with family/kin
- 37% to live more independently
- 25 youth used the emergency bed for a total of 71 nights

Transitional Housing Facility

7600 69th Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55429

Since the mid-90s, the Brooklyn Park EDA has owned a 4-plex apartment property in the Sunny Lane Neighborhood that has operated as a Transitional Housing Facility for families experiencing homelessness. The EDA purchased and rehabilitated the facility under the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) as a strategy to provide housing for extremely low-income families.

The facility provides families experiencing homelessness a safe place to live for up-to-24 months while working to become self-reliant. In return for paying an affordable rent amount, the residents agree to participate in job training or a school program applicable to their individual needs and goals, and to take various classes as needed such as personal financial management, parenting, and housekeeping in preparation for independent living.

Recap of Events

Throughout the year, the Economic Development Authority hosts a series of impactful events, each demonstrating a commitment to community engagement and contributing to the vitality of the local economy.

- Homeowner Association Workshops | June 29, 2024, and November 16, 2024
- METRO Blue Line Extension for Municipal Consent Open House | September 9, 2024

Real Estate Forum

On March 7, 2024, the Economic Development Authority hosted its 32nd Annual Real Estate Forum at Edinburgh USA. The event provides a platform for the real estate community to learn about the city’s initiatives shaping the development and housing landscape in Brooklyn Park. It serves as an opportunity for realtors and brokers to earn continuing education credits from the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

At-a-Glance

Registrants	117
Theme	Building and Enriching Communities
Keynote Speakers	Senator Susan Pha, State of Minnesota
Guest Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Arbit, Director of Research at Minneapolis Area Realtors • Jay Stroebel, Director of Community Development at the City of Brooklyn Park
Resource Vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of America • CorTrust Bank • Huntington National Bank • MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce • Metro Transit • Minnesota Housing • Movement Mortgage



Summer Blossom Awards Program



The City of Brooklyn Park held its 25th annual Summer Blossom Awards Program from May 15-July 14, 2024. The competitive program recognizes outstanding efforts in gardening and landscaping to promote a sense of pride and responsibility for beautifying the city, a Brooklyn Park 2025 goal. The winners were awarded a stipend toward materials and engraved paver and received formal recognition by the City Council.

Tour the Gardens



At-a-Glance

Participants	31
Judges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josie Thao, Project Facilitator at the City of Brooklyn Park • Kim O’Hair, Program Assistant at the City of Brooklyn Park • Myrna Dahl, 2023 Winner of the Summer Blossom Awards Program

Category	Gardener	Address
Single Family Grand (District 2)	Hak Leav	2125 74th Ct N
Single Family First Place – District 1	Sheila Amundson	6265 Yukon Ave N
Single Family First Place – District 3	Stanley Walton	9702 Linden Ave N
Single Family First Place – District 4	Judy Willenbring	8842 Kentucky Ave N
Grand Townhome	Mary Fischer	6520 84th Ct N
Grand Neighborhood	Creekside Gables	7601 Zane Ave N
Grand Commercial	Patio Town	8500 Jefferson Ln N



The City of Brooklyn Park held its 6th Annual Restaurant Week from September 23-29, 2024. The week-long promotional event showcases the diverse dining experiences in Brooklyn Park and encourages residents and community members to explore and support local restaurants.

Statistics

Participants	10 Restaurants
New Business Operations	40%
BIPOC-owned Restaurants	60%

Restaurants

Restaurants	Address
Down the Street Nutrition	1432 85th Ave
El Loro Mexican Restaurant	7901 Brooklyn Blvd
Heavy Rotation Brewing	9801 Xenia Ave, Suite 105
Mochinut	8586 Edinburgh Centre
Nadia’s Jamaican Kitchen	9590 Noble Pkwy
SŌKE BBQ & Hotpot	8586 Edinburgh Centre
Sweet Basil Asian Cuisine	9310 Zane Ave N
Sweet Taste of Italy	9576 Noble Pkwy
Upin Hot Pot	8000 Brooklyn Blvd
Wadsworth Restaurant	7025 Northland Dr

Drop off your completed bingo card at City Hall to be entered into a drawing for an exciting prize! All spaces must be completed. Don't forget to use #BPRestaurantWeek!

Instagramable? Take a selfie outside your favorite restaurant! <hr/> List restaurant	Satisfy a sweet tooth! Order a specialty drink <hr/> List drink	Support a local business! Compliment a participating restaurant online! <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media <hr/> List restaurant
In search of a new lunch spot? Visit a participating restaurant! <hr/> List restaurant	 FREE SPACE	Enjoying Restaurant Week? Like & Repost from the City's social media page City of Brooklyn Park, MN - Local Government @cityofbrooklynpark
On a time crunch? Order take-out at a participating restaurant! <hr/> List restaurant	Sharing is caring! Upload a photo of your favorite dish to recommend! <hr/> List entrée	Diversify your food palette! Discover a new favorite appetizer. <hr/> List appetizer

Questions? Contact Josie Thao at josphine.thao@brooklynpark.org or 763-493-8145.

Thank you to all of our participating restaurants!

Business Forward Forum

On November 13, 2024, the Economic Development Authority hosted its 13th Annual Business Forward Forum at Edinburg USA. The event provides a platform for the business community to access business and financial resources.



At-a-Glance

Registrants	101
Theme	Building Bridges to Prosperity
Keynote Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Gladhill, Community Development Director at the City of Brooklyn Park • Nathan Hood, Senior Planning Analyst at Hennepin County
Panel Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Ruddock, Metropolitan Economic Development Association • Jaylana Peters, Neighborhood Development Center • Jeffrey Hable, CorTrust Bank • Joshua Borgerding, Stearns Bank
Resource Vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BrookLynk • Brooklyn Park Police Department • Brooklyn Park Small Business Center • Hennepin County • Metropolitan Economic Development Association • Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development • Neighborhood Development Center • NextStage • Paadio Consulting

Workforce Development

The EDA continues to invest in innovative equitable economic development. One such initiative is the BrookLynk workforce development program launched in 2015. BrookLynk's mission is to coordinate partnerships that prepare employers to engage the next generation of workers and connect young people facing barriers to employment with the skills, experiences, and professional social networks needed to develop their pathway to college and career. The program is built on three core pillars: 21st-century skill-building, experiential employment opportunities, and local coordination and partnerships. By investing in and preparing youth for postsecondary and career success, BrookLynk provides economic mobility and serves as a critical component of our broader economic development strategy.

The Workforce Development Division, jointly led by Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center, works to advance employment opportunities, economic inclusion, public safety, and racial equity. Through training, employment services, and strategic partnerships with local businesses and organizations, our programs empower young people while addressing individual, community, and systemic barriers to workforce participation. Now in its 10th year, BrookLynk continues to expand its impact, equipping young people with the tools and connections needed to succeed while strengthening the region's talent pipeline.



2024 Programs and Services

Career Pathways

Equips local job seekers aged 18 and older with the skills and certifications needed to enter high-demand industries such as construction and public works. Through specialized training, hands-on experience, and employer partnerships, this program ensures that participants remain competitive in today's job market and secure stable, high-wage employment. Career Pathways is designed to meet both individual career goals and regional workforce needs by fostering a skilled and diverse talent pipeline.

Community Partnership Program (CPP)

The Community Partnership Program (CPP) collaborates with local organizations to deliver workforce development services tailored to the residents of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. By contracting with community partners, CPP expands access to job training, employment services, and career exploration opportunities, addressing economic disparities and strengthening local workforce capacity.

Get Ready! Work Readiness Training

Get Ready! is a foundational work readiness training designed to prepare youth ages 14-24 in the Northwest Suburbs for success in the workplace. Participants develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and professional behavior through interactive workshops and guided learning experiences. Completion of Get Ready! is a key step for youth interested in securing a paid BrookLynk summer internship or entering the workforce with confidence.



Online Training Series

The Online Training Series offers live, facilitated online learning modules that equip youth with career readiness skills and workplace knowledge. Covering topics such as resume writing, interview preparation, workplace etiquette, and industry-specific skills, this series allows participants to gain valuable insights and practical tools to support their professional growth. Priority is given to youth ages 14-15 who live or attend school in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center.

Summer Internships

BrookLynk's Summer Internship Program offers meaningful, paid work experiences for young people ages 16-24 who live or attend school in Brooklyn Center or Brooklyn Park. Interns are placed with local businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations, where they gain hands-on experience, develop professional networks, and strengthen their career readiness skills. These internships serve as a bridge between education and employment, helping youth build confidence and explore potential career pathways.



Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP)

In partnership with Zanewood Community Center, the Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) introduces youth and young adults (up to age 24) to business ownership and entrepreneurship as a career pathway. The program provides hands-on business training, mentorship, and financial support to help participants develop entrepreneurial skills, launch business ideas, and connect with paid training and employment opportunities. This program is committed to connecting higher barrier youth living in Brooklyn Center or Brooklyn Park to paid training and employment opportunities and to build capacity for local small business owners.



Alumni Network

The BrookLynk Alumni Network provides continued support and career development opportunities for paid program graduates. Alumni gain access to professional networking events, mentorship, job opportunities, and leadership development resources. By staying engaged with BrookLynk, alumni can expand their professional connections, continue their career growth, and give back by mentoring the next generation of young professionals.

2024 Community Impact

BrookLynk	
# of youth that completed work readiness training	310
# of youth that completed internships	82
# of youth that completed online training series	16
# of youth that completed Finishing Trades Institute Training	24
Total # of youth served	432
Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP)	
# of youth attending workshops	50
# of youth that completed YEP internships	3
# youth awarded small business micro-grants	7
Total # of youth served	60
Career Pathways (ages 18+)	
# of participants that completed construction & trades training	15
# of participants Hired into seasonal Public Works employment	6
Total # of participants served	21



Funders

- City of Brooklyn Park / Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority
- City of Brooklyn Center / Brooklyn Center Economic Development Authority
- Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)
- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
- Hennepin-Carver Workforce Board
- Brooklyn Park Rotary Club

Employer Partners

- Anoka-Hennepin Community Education
- Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth
- Brooklyn Center Community Schools
- City of Brooklyn Center
- City of Brooklyn Park
- Clear Edge
- Construction Careers Foundation
- Cummins Power Systems
- Embassy Suites
- Hennepin County
- Hennepin Technical College
- Indred Alexander Agency
- Linden Group
- Noble Parkway Medical Clinic
- North Hennepin Community College
- Osseo Area Schools
- Paadio Consulting
- Robbinsdale Area Schools
- Star
- TopLine Federal Credit Union

Statistics

- \$359,000+ in wealth created through wages and stipends for youth and their families living in the Brooklyns
- 513 participants served across programs in 2024
- 95 internships coordinated with 20 businesses

Race / Ethnicity

Asian or Asian American	16%
Black, African, or African American	51%
Hispanic or Latinx	8%
Native American or Alaska Native	2%
White or Caucasian	2%
Mixed	>1%
Other/Did not disclose	21%

City of Residence

Brooklyn Park	44%
Brooklyn Center	33%
Other (Suburban Hennepin County)	23%

Other Demographics

Opportunity Youth (homeless/runaway, pregnant/parenting, foster care, and/or justice involved)	7%
Low Income	66%
First Generation High School Grad or College Student	26%
First or Second-Generation Immigrant	52%

Contact Us

Meetings

The Economic Development Authority meets on the third Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. If a meeting date falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place the following Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

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