

2024 Quarter One Report



The Plymouth City Council has four key strategic themes - City Center, Redevelopment, Environmental Stewardship, and City of Choice. The Community and Economic Development (CED) Department focuses our work around these key themes. Quarterly updates are slated under each of these four themes. Click on the theme below to jump to the updates!

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Community & Economic Development Department



City of Choice

Ribbon Cuttings & Tours



Optimal Performance Golf

Optimal Performance Golf and Rock Elm Tavern recently cut the ribbon on a new partnership – an event space at 16605 County Road 24 featuring three multi-sports simulators for golf, hockey, soccer and more. Guests can book timeslots for the simulators while enjoying Rock Elm Tavern food and drinks.



HistoSonics

HistoSonics has developed a non-invasive, sonic beam therapy platform that uses histotripsy, which is capable of destroying targeted liver tumors at a sub-cellular level. The executive team gave the mayor and staff a personal tour of their new facilities at 16305 36th Avenue and demonstrated their newest technology.



Nala's Kitchen

Nala's Kitchen – a new restaurant at 16605 County Road 24 serves vegetarian and vegan dishes with an “authentic, yet elegantly modern take on Indian cuisine.” Visitors can also enjoy authentic Indian coffee and desserts.

Housing

The Housing Division's objective is to meet the housing needs of Plymouth residents by utilizing CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds to provide a range of housing options. These programs include:

- The city's **Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Loans Program** provides financial assistance of up to \$40,000 to eligible homeowners to help with home repairs making their homes safer and more energy efficient. **There were nine recipients during Q1.**
- The city's **Emergency Repair Grant Program** provides small and emergency repairs for qualifying seniors. The program grants up to \$7,500 for emergency and small repairs. **There were two recipients during Q1.**
- The city's **First-Time Home Buyer Program** provides zero interest loans up to \$35,000 for qualifying 1st time home buyers purchasing homes in Plymouth. **There were three recipients during Q1.**

Small Business Networking Group

The Community & Economic Development department launched the Small Business Networking Group in January. The group of business owners, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and business leaders meets every other month at the Plymouth Community Center to connect, learn, and share business opportunities to peers throughout Plymouth. The meetings also provide an opportunity for city staff to listen and gather feedback on how to foster local business growth.

To find out more information, including previous meeting minutes and events, visit www.plymouthmn.gov/networking.



Employment Report

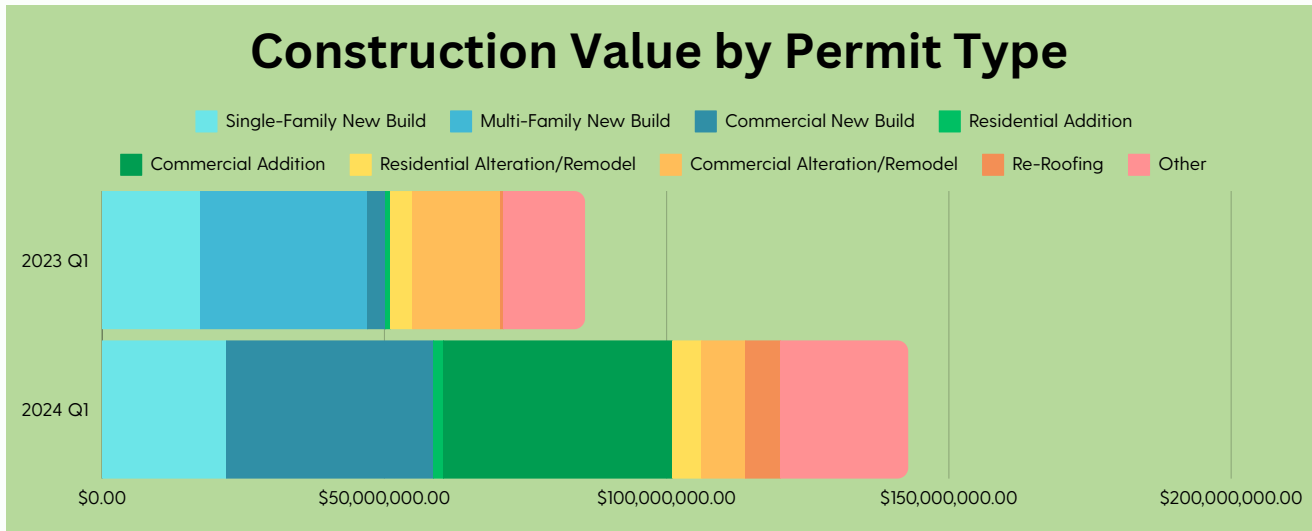
Industry	2023 Q1	2024 Q1	% Change
Professional & Business Services	11,159	10,897	-2.5%
Trade	10,874	11,046	1.5%
Manufacturing	10,271	9,708	-5.5%
Education & Health Services	7,622	8,252	8%
Construction	3,133	3,054	-2.5%
Financial Activities	3,228	2,990	-7%
Leisure & Hospitality	3,082	2,834	-8%
Public Administration	1,789	1,808	1%
Total Jobs	53,578	52,828	-1.5%

Information provided from Minnesota Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). Percentages rounded to the nearest half percent.

Plymouth's employment report showed a slight decrease in total jobs from Q1 2023 to Q1 2024, with a notable decline in manufacturing, financial, and hospitality industries. There was an increase in trade-related employment, one of the largest industries in Plymouth. There was an increase in education and health services employment which may be attributed to the opening of new health organizations in 2023.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows a 12-month change (from 2023 Q1 to 2024 Q1) of -4.3% for professional services jobs, 1.1% for trade jobs, and -1.5% for manufacturing jobs across the state of Minnesota. Plymouth continues to be on pace with statewide employment trends, which include a reduction in manufacturing and financial activities. Though the total jobs in Minnesota reached their pre-pandemic levels in summer of 2023, Plymouth has yet to surpass the pre-pandemic peak of 58,137 jobs in Q1 2020. At the state and local level, employment is growing at a slower rate than the previous two years, likely due to an aging workforce causing total workforce participation to shrink at a faster rate than the 16-54 population is growing. This is evidenced by similar trends in Plymouth's workforce, senior, and total population changes since 2020. Overall, Plymouth and Minnesota's labor markets are in line with the Federal Reserve's goals to curb inflation with continued, though slowing, job growth alongside continued low unemployment.

Redevelopment



Permits	2023 Q1	2024 Q1	% Change
Construction Value of All Permits	\$85,545,650	\$142,798,530	67%
Total Permits	2,081	2,712	30.5%
Construction Value of All New Builds	\$50,146,228	\$58,657,735	17%

The construction value of all permits issued by the City increased by 67% between Q1 2023 and Q1 2024. The spike in construction value in 2024 Q1 can be attributed in large part to the \$40 million Trillium Woods expansion project and the new \$30 million Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office. Commercial development investment in Plymouth continues steadily from 2023 to 2024.

Re-Roofing	2023 Q1	2024 Q1	% Change
Value of Re-Roof Permits	\$430,862	\$6,188,079	1336%
Total Re-Roof Permits	13	323	2384%

Last quarter’s trend of increased window and re-roofing permits continues into Q1 2024, following the August 2023 hailstorm that hit the Twin Cities. Re-roofing alone accounts for half of the overall increase in total permits issued.

Environmental Stewardship

Rooftop Beekeeping in Industrial Districts

In March 2024, City Council passed a resolution adopting regulations for rooftop beekeeping in industrial districts. Luce Line Brewing, who applied for the amendment, use honey in many of their products and wished to produce local honey onsite. Pollinators play a crucial role in our ecosystem's health- recent increases in urban beekeeping, alongside efforts to plant native species and reduce pesticide use, signify an increased social awareness of the importance of habitat preservation and pollinator conservation towards overall environmental sustainability.



Photo courtesy of Luce Line Brewing, 2024.

Renewable Energy	2023 Q1	2024 Q1
Solar Permits	13	10
EV Permits	53	65

The changing climate will continue to impact the City's work as construction seasons adapt around irregular snowfall patterns, intensified storms, and flooding. Unpredictable climate patterns will likely produce more unpredictable permit and construction patterns.

City Center

Waived Administrative Fees

The City approves certain uses in City Center via Administrative Permit, such as EV chargers, outdoor dining, farmers markets, sidewalk sales, and outdoor events. The City determined that waving Administrative Permit and temporary sign fees during Plymouth Boulevard construction supports the Council's strategic goals surrounding businesses in City Center. Information on fee waivers were hand-delivered to each business in City Center.

