



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



2022 IN REVIEW

BY MAYOR SIMISON



It is my pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report. Meridian is a thriving community. This past year, we have seen infrastructure development, economic vibrancy and great strides in transportation initiatives. We continued to make open spaces and recreation a priority through new pathways and additional amenities. Services were enhanced through the expansion of public safety. We engaged with key stakeholders looking for partnership solutions and built off the momentum of collaboration. And, according to our residents, we continued to provide the level of customer service our citizens have come to expect.

I take pride in the accomplishments of your Meridian team that you will see throughout this report. As you read through, know that your public servants are guided by the Meridian Way, providing CARE (Customer Service, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence) to our community in a timely, friendly, professional, and solution-oriented manner. City employees are also guided by six key areas of our Strategic Plan as we plan for the future: Responsible Growth; Transportation & Infrastructure; Business & Economic Vitality; Public Health & Safety; Vibrant & Sustainable Community; and Government Excellence. By committing to our values and focus areas, we are able to meet our mission which is to deliver superior service through committed, equipped employees dedicated to the stewardship of the public's resources while being a vibrant, livable, and connected community.

Meridian is Built for Business and Designed for Living, and as your Mayor, I am committed to addressing the challenges our residents and business owners face. As your city, we will innovate the work we do and the services we deliver. We will continue to build off the successes of 2022, as there is more work to be done. I look forward to discovering what we can accomplish together and the great milestones ahead. I am confident that we will exceed your expectations as we build upon our vision to be the West's premier community in which to live, work and raise a family.


ROBERT SIMISON
Mayor - City of Meridian



RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

Meridian will responsibly promote growth that enhances its long-term comprehensive vision and prioritizes infill development. We will encourage affordable, diverse housing options and high-quality communities.

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

Meridian City Council approved a new Existing Conditions Report as an addendum to the Meridian Comprehensive Plan. This report provides a framework for future decision-making by detailing the current state, specific directions, and actions taken related to growth. Land use policy decisions that are considering the history and existing conditions within Meridian, and the impacts on transportation, housing, and economic strategies that current policies have had.

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/COMPLAN](https://meridiandcity.org/complan)

PRIORITIZING INVESTMENT OF CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Public Works Department completed several important water and sewer line extensions and replacements throughout the City in 2022. Working collaboratively with the Ada County Highway District, several notable projects included replacing approximately a half mile of old water and sewer mains in the area of Chateau Drive, and upgrading water and sewer utility lines under a new roundabout at Ten Mile/Amity and along Meridian Road between Cherry Lane and Ustick. These projects save costs and reduce future inconvenience to the public, while upgrading utilities.

NEW PERMIT AND ENTITLEMENT SUMMARY DASHBOARD

Staff has developed an internal GIS tool to better track and visualize entitlement and permit activity in the City. Data is both isolated to each activity and aggregated by demographic areas for summary. By visualizing activity geographically and reporting out summarized impacts, staff is able to better monitor and inform decisions makers.



751

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS PROCESSED

3,766

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

2,113

PERMITS/LICENSES ISSUED

724,142

DOCUMENTS RECORDED



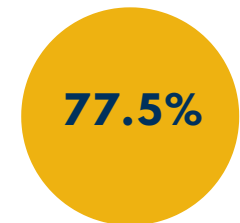
RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Meridian Parks and Recreation Department spent 2022 working on updating their Master Plan. This detailed document garnered public input and engaged key stakeholders during the 6-month process. This process also helped to establish a new Cost Recovery philosophy and policy which will help us prioritize and price our recreation programs, facility rentals, and events. Overall, the Master Plan provides the vision for Meridian's pathways system, recreation activities, and special events. It guides the work of Meridian Parks and Recreation staff to ensure the premier services were meeting resident's needs, and is an integral part of our ongoing efforts to provide innovatively designed parks, better connected pathways, and diverse recreational opportunities that build lasting memories. Meridian Parks and Recreation's Master Plan will be presented to council for consideration in 2023.



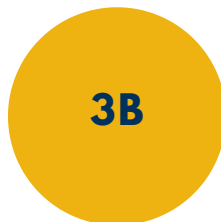
POPULATION PER COMPASS



HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE



HYDRANTS



GALLONS OF WASTEWATER TREATED



MILES OF WATER LINE



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Meridian will prioritize citizen desires for a more connected and safe community infrastructure. We will engage our partners and utilize resources to advance priority projects. We will develop a safe and connected system that includes pathways, sidewalks, and a multi-modal approach to solve congestion challenges and roadway deficiencies.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

While the City does not have jurisdiction over Meridian's roads, sidewalks, and schools, the responsibility to help improve these services for Meridian residents does fall on all of us.

LINDER ROAD OVERPASS

The project to widen Linder Road, Overland to Franklin to five lanes with a bicycle and pedestrian facility and a new I-84 overpass moved from concept to design. An Interagency Agreement, scope, and schedule were finalized between Meridian, the Ada County Highway District (ACHD), and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) in the summer and design of the project began in fall, 2022.

WIDENING MAJOR ROADWAYS

- Eagle Road, Franklin to Ustick, widening project is complete, adding a third southbound lane on SH-55. This project was funded through a Sales Tax Anticipation Revenue (STAR) agreement with the developer of the Village at Meridian.
- Eagle Road, Amity to Victory, was widened to five lanes and multi-use pathways were constructed, reaching completion in spring 2022.
- Ten Mile Road, Victory to Overland, was widened to five lanes with center medians to include a roundabout at Ten Mile/Victory and off-street pedestrian and bike facilities, reaching completion in fall 2022.

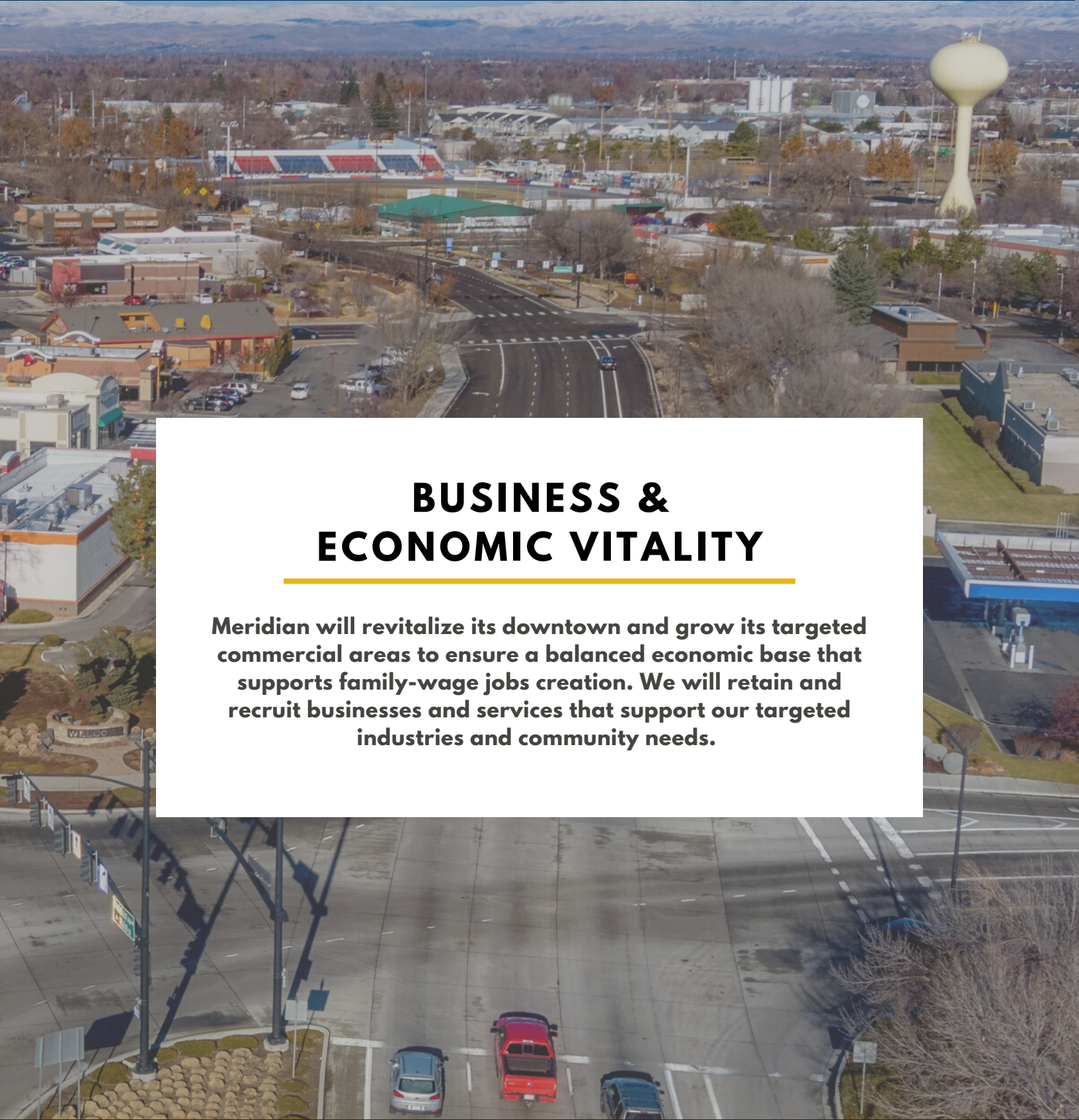
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Valley Regional Transit launched Route 30 Pine in October, providing public transportation from the Ten Mile Interchange area through downtown to The Village, and re-routed Route 45 Boise State to College of Western Idaho via Fairview to now include stops in Meridian.

STREETLIGHTS

The Public Works Department was able to complete several important new street lighting projects in Meridian in 2022. New streetlights were added along Locust Grove between Pine and Fairview for optimization of the corridor. New streetlights and LED upgrades were done around Chief Joseph Middle School, increasing pedestrian and traffic safety. In addition, 499 streetlights were upgraded to LED bulbs. These LED upgrades provide a savings of \$43,000 in power costs and maintenance annually.





BUSINESS & ECONOMIC VITALITY

Meridian will revitalize its downtown and grow its targeted commercial areas to ensure a balanced economic base that supports family-wage jobs creation. We will retain and recruit businesses and services that support our targeted industries and community needs.

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC VITALITY

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

The City of Meridian continues to focus its efforts on retaining, supporting and attracting family wage jobs, with a particular focus on encouraging expansion of the information technology, professional services, healthcare and advanced manufacturing industries. These core industries require space and we have seen continued development of commercial and industrial space, with over 3 million square feet of space added in 2022.

Jobs continue to be added throughout Meridian, including downtown, along the I-84 corridor at Ten Mile and Eagle View Landing, as well as in business parks including Silverstone, El Dorado and others. Overall, the city added 2,358 jobs across many industries.

Job growth, business development and targeted retention efforts help build a resilient economic base for the Meridian community.

DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

Meridian's downtown continues to see investment in new development and commercial activity. Old Town Lofts, which began in 2020, opened its doors to residential and business tenants this year. The two four-story buildings include 15,000 square feet of retail on the ground floor and three stories of residential housing with over 100 units available.

The Union 93 development, on the former Union Pacific property, broke ground. When completed the project will add more than 300 residential units and 25,000 square feet of retail, as well as over 613 parking stalls to the downtown region.

These developments are continuing to enhance our downtown, and will ensure that it remains the heart of our community for future generations.

ENHANCING LIVABILITY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Ten Mile Crossing is capturing a sizable portion of the demand for Class A office space in the Valley and has added over 750,000 square feet. In addition, Ten-Mile Crossing is providing new retail and residential options, which included more than 500 residential units as well as retail, services, and restaurants including Gandolfos, Happy Teriyaki, Crave Delivery, V's Barbershop, Saltzer Health Urgent Care, Primary Care Urgent Care, Functional Medicine of Idaho, and Pivot Fitness Gym. In addition, a 240,000 square foot Scheels Sporting Goods is under construction.

Eagle View Landing is a 73-acre site, featuring office, retail, medical, and corporate campuses including two hotels: Hyatt Place and Woodspring Suites. That is over 625,000 square feet of Class A office space for Meridian.

Roaring Springs broke ground on their latest expansion. They are a regional attraction that brings large numbers of visitors to our community from all over. Top Golf opened in the last week of November, adding to the entertainment options in Meridian. Scheel's Sporting Goods is also under construction. Together, these and other recreational and commercial establishments have established Meridian as the center for family-focused entertainment, eating, shopping and gathering.

312M

NEW COMMERCIAL
BUILDING VALUATION

20

MINUTES FOR
AVERAGE COMMUTE

2,358

JOBS ADDED



PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Meridian will maintain its status as one of the safest communities in the West by investing in services and infrastructure that are essential to public health and safety. We will provide timely services, safe drinking water, and regulatory compliant wastewater services. We will evaluate the environmental impacts of our decisions, using data to inform our decision-making. We will partner with our health community to ensure access to quality care for our citizens.



PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

MERIDIAN INVESTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

Meridian Fire Stations Seven and Eight held groundbreaking ceremonies during 2022. These new facilities will continue to improve response times and reliability ratings. Reducing call response times is important to Meridian's overall mission to reduce community risk exposure. These new fire stations will also provide more first responders throughout the City of Meridian.

Both these fire stations will be over 11,500 square feet and will feature three double-deep drive through apparatus bays with quick access gear and decontamination rooms. The overall building is organized to keep operation of the apparatus bay separate from the living quarters, a critical feature as it reduces hazardous exhaust exposure to the firefighters who live there. These facilities are expected to be fully staffed and operational by Fall 2023.

NEW LADDER TRUCK IN SERVICE

Meridian welcomed a new ladder truck, Truck 31, located at Fire Station One. Community members came together to welcome Truck 31 in May 2022, with a traditional push-in ceremony which dates back to times when steamer engines were horse-drawn. This new ladder truck will ensure that Meridian continues to have premier service and emergency access to building and facilities as new developments continue to grow in height.

NEW TRAINING FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

Meridian Fire Department, in partnership with Cascade Student Transportation and West Ada School District, provided a unique training and live demonstration focused on school bus extractions and fires. Meridian fire crews were able to practice their extrication skills on several school buses and demonstrate just how fast a school bus can catch fire: under one minute. This was a valuable training for school bus drivers to receive and an opportunity for Meridian fire crews to prepare for a worst case scenario.



8,971

CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MFD)

2,868

FIRE INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED

512

PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS
(MFD)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Hoping to #StopTheStigma, the Meridian Police Department (MPD) debuted its new Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) in May for Mental Health Awareness Month where it also unveiled its new mental health awareness team and vehicle.

To help combat the stigma of Mental Health, the Meridian Police Department has established a Crisis Intervention Team focused on assisting individuals who contact 911 during a mental health crisis. This team comprises of two officers who have received enhanced training working with youth and adults struggling with their mental health, and who are paired with a mental health clinician.

The mental health awareness patrol vehicle is wrapped with a green ribbon, a symbol of mental health awareness, and the slogan #StopTheStigma, a national campaign to end the stigma surrounding mental health and create hope for those impacted by mental illness. The Meridian Police Department hopes this new awareness vehicle encourages all who see it to have open conversations about mental health and to reach out for help if needed.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS IN MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Following up on Mayor Simison's 2022 State of the City address, the Meridian Police Department deployed three new School Resource Officers (SROs) to Meridian elementary schools in the fall of 2022, with the other three beginning in January of 2023. Each new SRO is assigned to three elementary schools within a geographical area. They bring enhanced services to our elementary schools and allow existing school resource officers to be solely focused on needs at the high and middle school levels.



59,320

CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MPD)

8,507

PUBLIC RECORDS
REQUESTS
(MPD)

3:50

AVERAGE EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TIMES
(MPD)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

Meridian will maintain its status as one of the safest communities in the West by investing in services and infrastructure that are essential to public health and safety. We will provide timely services, safe drinking water, and regulatory compliant wastewater services. We will evaluate the environmental impacts of our decisions, using data to inform our decision-making. We will partner with our health community to ensure access to quality care for our citizens.

PREVENTION IS KEY

The Crime Prevention Unit provided programs such as Spring Safety Flings, the Public Safety Academy, Youth Safety Academy, National Night Out, Public Safety Day, Coffee with a Cop and more in 2022. Programs such as these provide increased prevention and safety education messaging, and allow the public to interact with Police Department staff on a more personal basis, giving the public a better understanding of the role the department plays in providing law enforcement services to the City of Meridian.



OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDING HELPS MADC FOCUS ON OPIOID IMPACTS

With support from the Mayor and Meridian City Council, the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) received \$219,464 from the Idaho Opioid Settlement Fund. This was used to expand drug prevention services in Meridian by helping to bring on a new drug prevention coordinator. The role partners with the community to focus on developing and providing law enforcement tools to combat opioid addiction, through the development of opioid abatement strategies, while supporting the Meridian community through education and treatment.



POLICE PRECINCT GROUNDBREAKING

The city broke ground on a new police precinct in Northwest Meridian. This police precinct will be co-located with Meridian Fire Station Eight, both undergoing construction at the same time. The construction of multiple facilities together provides a cost-savings for the community. This new precinct will reduce “windshield” time for officers and allow more time spent within neighborhoods. This facility will help in the delivery of the life-safety services expected by Meridian residents and businesses.



2,683

POUNDS OF RX DRUGS
RECOVERED

504

PUBLIC EDUCATION
EVENTS
(MPD)

51

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
LIASIONS

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

A YEAR OF DESIGN

The City's large and complex public works projects take years to construct, but before a shovel of dirt can be turned, years of planning and engineering design must occur. This year was an intensive year of designing and planning future water and wastewater utility projects.

In 2022, Meridian's Public Works Engineering Team worked on several critical large infrastructure design projects that will ensure the Meridian utilities are able to keep up with growth and increasing regulations.

Several key design projects included the Can-Ada Lift Station, a future \$20 million-dollar new sewer lift station project that will serve and enable future development in Northwest Meridian.

Substantial design work was completed for the second phase of an additional \$30 million dollars of necessary upgrades at the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility to meet regulations under the facility's current permits. Design work was also completed for additional odor control upgrades for the wastewater facility.

On the drinking water side, design work began for three additional new water treatment facilities and a complete demolition and rebuild of one of the City's oldest drinking water wells, which was originally built in 1977.

1,633

PUBLIC WORKS
INSPECTIONS COMPLETE

43,730

TOTAL SEWER
SERVICE
CONNECTIONS

8,178

STREETLIGHTS MAINTAINED
BY THE CITY

44,708

NEXTDOOR MEMBERS

94,711

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
(SEPERATE FROM MPD)



VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Meridian will create vibrant places for our citizens, embrace sustainable practices, and preserve natural spaces. We will provide innovatively designed parks and recreational offerings. We will respond to citizen desires to be stewards of our natural environment. We will partner with our community and developers to create beautiful open spaces, and cultivate art and cultural opportunities.

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

LAKEVIEW GOLF CLUB IMPROVEMENTS

The City transitioned operations of Lakeview Gold Club from Kemper, bringing on nine regular full-time golf course staff and 34 seasonal golf staff onto the City of Meridian team. This was a large effort for the City's Human Resources Department in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Department and the Golf Club staff.

A number of major projects that will improve the golf course's appearance and playability were started during the summer. A new irrigation system was installed throughout the entire golf course to improve water coverage, with new irrigation lines and heads across the course. Work continues on the installation of a new pressurized irrigation pump which will increase water capacity and minimize the need for daytime watering.

Among Lakeview Golf Club's latest capital improvements is the addition of new concrete golf cart paths at all the tees and at every green. The few pathways that existed prior to 2022 were poorly defined gravel or compressed soil paths with no formal edging. As a result, areas of heavy use and access were rutted and often became muddy. The new 8' concrete pathways alleviate these issues while ensuring safe and appropriate cart usage throughout the course. Work crews completed new cart paths on the course's back nine holes and will be working to complete cart paths on the front nine in 2023.

Indoors, the club enhanced its breakfast, lunch and dinner offerings from Rooster's Tavern on the Green. Lakeview also hosted a variety of adult and youth tournaments, provided golf lessons, and held a variety of social events.



6,157

TREES IN MERIDIAN
PARKS

333.95

ACRES OF DEVELOPED
PARK LAND

15.53

MILES OF MAINTAINED
PATHWAYS

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUCCESSES

In 2022, Meridian staff worked to streamline solar permitting and reduced internal and external costs associated with solar permitting, inspection, and planning and zoning approval. Implementing these best practices provide faster, easier, and more affordable processes for homes and businesses to install and access solar energy. Through these efforts to provide premier service, the City of Meridian was recognized as a SolSmart Bronze Community.

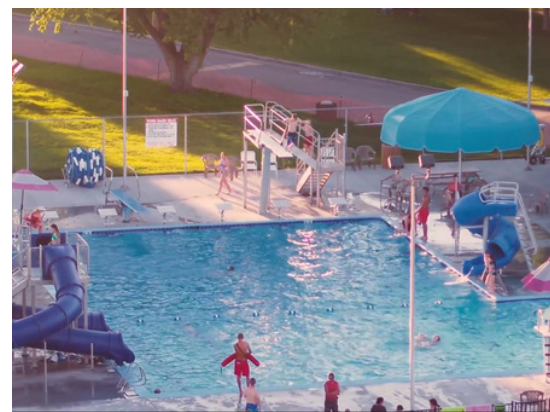
DISCOVERY PARK PHASE II

Discovery Park Phase II broke ground in 2022 and a lot of construction progress has been made. Much of the work has been focused on building the infrastructure (power, water, and sewer) necessary to support the new 520-space parking lot and other park amenities. Upon its completion, Discovery Park's new amenities will include an Active Area with tennis, pickleball, bocce ball courts, a 40-yard dash area, basketball courts; bike park and pump track; Teen Area with skate park; hammock poles; sand volleyball; illuminated ball fields; restroom and concession stands; community garden; picnic shelters; paved walking paths; and additional parking.

SPLASHING INTO POOL MANAGEMENT

On June 6, 2022, the Meridian Community Pool opened for the summer season under new operation of the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department. In anticipation of its opening, a variety of repairs and enhancement were completed. These included access gate adjustments, concrete repairs, the installation of new AEDs, a new auto-vac system for vacuuming the pool, and the replacement of equipment used by the pool's team of 42 lifeguards. In addition, the men's and women's changing rooms and restrooms were updated for ADA compliance, and several IT updates improved the telephone, computer, security and WiFi systems.

Despite some hiring challenges due to the tight labor market, the pool was able to offer youth swimming lessons and weekend open swim sessions throughout the summer. The pool also hosted practices and meets for local high school swim teams. During the off-season, a portion of the pool building's interior space will be utilized for classes and activities offered through Meridian Parks and Recreation.



PARKS EVENTS



FIELD RESERVATIONS



TRAFFIC BOXES WRAPPED

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

NEW CORNHOLE COURTS AT SETTLERS PARK

Meridian's Settlers Park now has five new concrete cornhole courts, thanks to a successful grant request received from Together Treasure Valley, a team of community partners who fund projects aimed at celebrating the places, people and endeavors that make the Treasure Valley special.

The ten cornhole boards share space with the park's horseshoe pits and are located behind the tennis court complex. They are available for use by the public free of charge and can be reserved for tournaments and special events.

The facility, which celebrated its ribbon cutting in May 2022, has already been host to a number of cornhole tournaments put on by both the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department and a variety of outside organizations.



PARTNERSHIPS BRING PICKLEBALL COURTS TO KLEINER PARK

Meridian's Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park now has four new pickleball courts! The courts are the result of a public-private partnership between the City of Meridian, Brighton Corporation and Ball Ventures LLC, the two companies that jointly own the nearby Bri at the Village 55+ active adult apartment community.

The new courts were constructed during summer and fall 2022 and opened for play with a public ribbon cutting celebration in November 2022.

Under the terms of a construction and joint use agreement, BVBC paid for the construction of the pickleball facility in exchange for six hours of priority use for Bri residents each week – Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The courts will be available for use by the general public. This agreement will remain in place for a period of ten years.



577

RECREATION
CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

172

ARTISTS HOSTED BY
INITIAL POINT GALLERY

11

MERIDIAN ART SHOWS



VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

MERIDIAN'S NEW MURAL SERIES

Thanks to effort of the Meridian Arts Commission, Meridian has several new art murals which help give our community a unique and contemporary sense of place.

A pair of murals, funded by the Meridian Art in Public Spaces program, were installed at Tully Skate Park. These murals were a collaboration between local professional artist Miguel Almeida and youth apprentice Macy Ratzesberger, a student at the Idaho Fine Arts Academy. In bringing these murals to life, Almeida was able to act as a mentor for the young artist.

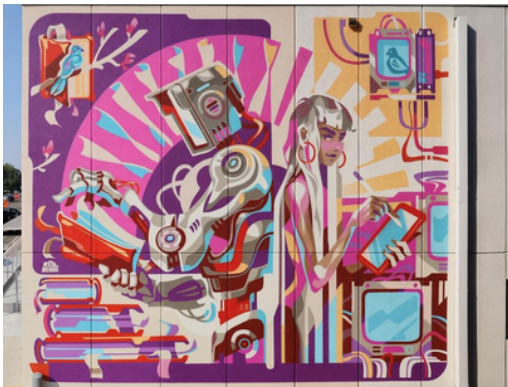
During Meridian Art Week in September, a large vibrant mural was installed on an exterior wall of the Meridian Library District's unBound tech library at 722 E. 2nd Street in downtown Meridian. It was created by Key Detail, an artist and illustrator from New York City who has created murals all over the world.

WRAPPING MERIDIAN WITH ARTWORK

Through the efforts of the Meridian Arts Commission, Meridian has 10 new traffic box wraps created by local artists, with the majority designed by students from West Ada School District. The traffic box wrap program turns electrical boxes on sidewalks and street corners into a collection of small public art pieces. In addition to beautifying the surroundings by adding interest, color, and uniqueness to our urban landscape, the wraps also greatly reduce the potential for graffiti on the boxes and the maintenance hours required to clean them. It offers a special opportunity to enhance the vitality and vibrancy of our community while showcasing the talent of local artists.

NEW PLAYGROUND INSTALLED CHATEAU PARK

In October 2022, City officials and neighbors gathered to cut the ribbon on a new playground at Meridian's Chateau Park. The new playground, which replaced the park's aging play structures, is universally accessible and has soft-fall surfacing. The project was paid for with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The park's former playground equipment will be donated to a non-profit that will refurbish it and install it for use by children in a third world country.



GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

Meridian will encourage open, transparent, and approachable government. We will embody our CARE values utilizing proactive, high-quality communication with our citizens and stakeholders enhancing community engagement. We will invest in our employees in order to deliver our citizens the most innovative, efficient, and value added-services, while providing financially sound, resilient, and effective government.



GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

MERIDIAN DISTRICTING

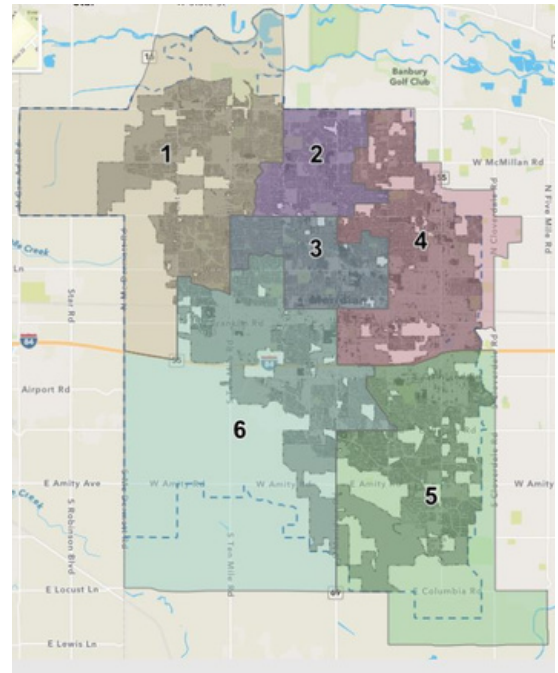
Meridian is required to elect our City Council members by district beginning in the November 2023 election, because we surpassed 100,000 people in the last census. Districting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together for the purposes of electing a City Council member. The process of districting is important, to ensure that each City Council Member represents about the same number of constituents.

An independent committee was formed in April 2022 to review census data and other factors to create a proposed map of the six City Council districts. This map was approved by the Committee and subsequently adopted by the City Council on June 28, 2022. Historic Council seat numbers were also aligned with adopted Districts under Ordinance 22-1988, adopted on August 16, 2022. Completing Meridian's District Map by August 2022 allows potential candidates and voters time to learn about districts and plan better for the 2023 election.

There are six City Council Districts in Meridian, each represented by an elected Council Member. Residents of Meridian have a dedicated City Council Member. In addition to contacting the Mayor's Office for comments or concerns, community members can also connect with elected City Council Members from specific districts.

There is an interactive map on Meridian's website, www.meridiancity.org/districting, that helps identify what City Council District an address falls within. It also provides the name of the City Council Member representing that area of the community.

WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/DISTRICTING



2022 CITY SURVEY RESULTS

Every other year, the City of Meridian performs a Citizen Survey to get a glimpse of the community's perspective on city services and issues important to our residents. The survey was administered by ETC Institute, a national market research firm that specializes in conducting surveys for local governments.

The survey questions focused on the quality of services that are provided both by Meridian directly and those by our service partners. Whether considering public safety needs, our parks and pathways, an emerging downtown, or road and transportation needs, our goal from the survey is to understand how Meridian residents view the quality of these services.

Highest priorities for residents include roads, traffic, transportation, education, growth and development.

89%

RESPONDENTS AGREED THAT MERIDIAN IS A GOOD OR EXCELLENT PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY

40/41

ASSESSED AREAS, CITY OF MERIDIAN RATED ABOVE THE U.S. AVERAGE!

WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/CITYSURVEY

GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

MYMERIDIAN PODCAST

In September 2022, the City of Meridian launched the myMERIDIAN podcast—the City’s first official podcast. Between September and November, a collection of twelve “City 101” episodes were released on a weekly basis, and each episode featured an interview between host Mayor Simison and a city department director. In line with the City’s strategic plan and with Mayor Simison’s commitment to making sure that we increase accessibility to government and empower our residents with knowledge, the conversations in these episodes provide all listeners with a behind-the-scenes chance to learn more about how the City of Meridian functions. Listeners also have the chance to hear and understand the philosophies of those in charge of our parks, police, firefighters, and more. Unlike in-person “City 101” events hosted by the City in years past, the “City 101” episodes of the myMERIDIAN podcast are accessible to anyone with an Internet connection, which means that future listeners will continue tuning in and learning about the City in the months and years to come. Since its debut, the myMERIDIAN podcast has been downloaded more than 1,000 times across all episodes.



WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/MYMERIDIAN

MERIDIAN'S NEW WEBSITE

Meridian's communications team and IT Department launched a new City website in November. In today's world, being able to access information quickly is critical. Meridian's new website is the main communication portal for the community and plays a crucial role in the city's success, and in building confidence about an open and transparent government.

With the focus of providing increased accessibility and transparency to government information at all levels, this new website provides a clean, modern design, insightful content, and improved site navigation, so residents and businesses can find what they're looking for effectively. It also includes an automatic translation feature for more than 100 languages, reflecting the City's commitment to accessibility for the entire community.

The site features many visual aids too, to help bring the feel of daily business to the online experience. All images on the new website include alternative text for blind and visually-impaired residents, ensuring all can access this resource. The goal is to have a website that works for all.

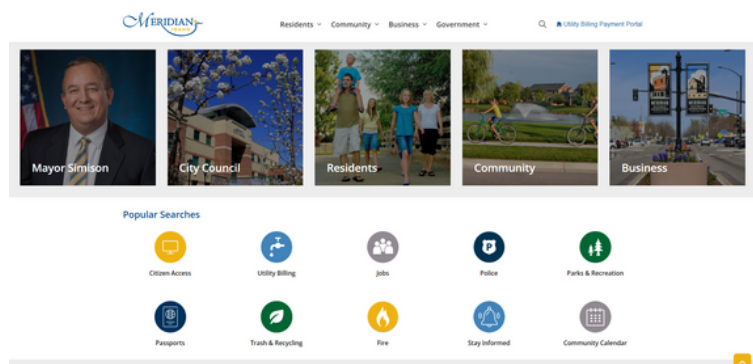
And while it looks different, that is purposeful. The website's sitemap is organized to reflect the analytics of users, prominently featuring many of the City's most popular search items, such as utility billing, job opportunities, passports, and trash and recycling information. The new website allows constituents to easily obtain public meeting information, agendas, and

minutes, and find information on City news and events more rapidly than before.

The website is broken up into many categories for residents, business owners, and community partners, and ready for each target audience to find the information they need to continue on with their day.

Many enhancements were also made to allow for better navigation via mobile devices. More than half of all users now access the website from their cell phones and tablets. Keeping this in mind throughout the build of the website has helped provide the end-user with a positive experience, while expanding the user's knowledge and capabilities in a more engaging format.

WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG



GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

The City of Meridian takes a conservative, responsible, and transparent approach to our annual operating budget. We take our fiduciary responsibilities seriously and understand that each dollar we are entrusted with must show results for our customers.

The City's financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. This requires a proactive approach to budgeting revenues, long-range financial planning and economic forecasting, saving for large capital projects, and collaboration between all of the City's departments.

The URL at the bottom of this page will lead you to the Fiscal Year 2023 budgets which began October 1, 2022. On this website, you will find links to the operating and capital budgets for the General Fund and Enterprise Fund. Utilizing the OpenGov software, you can take a deeper look into any part of the budget that you wish to see. Keep clicking and you can truly see how we put each dollar to work for our residents.

Our transparency extends to our budgeting process, where we live stream our budget hearings and invite residents to voice their opinions prior to approving the budget.

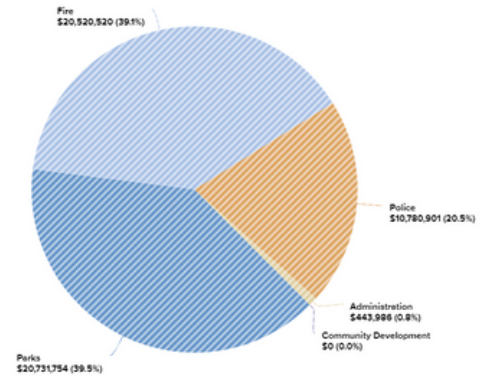
In addition, the Finance Department has a new budget software this year, which replaced the manual process, allowing the City to modernize our budgeting process. This centralized software solution increases data accuracy, saves time, and improves process efficiency. It also enables the City to send and receive budget proposals, track performance on strategic objectives, comment on budget line items, and support collaborative across departments to build a better budget.

The **GENERAL FUND** pays for basic City services: Community Development and Planning, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, and Administration.

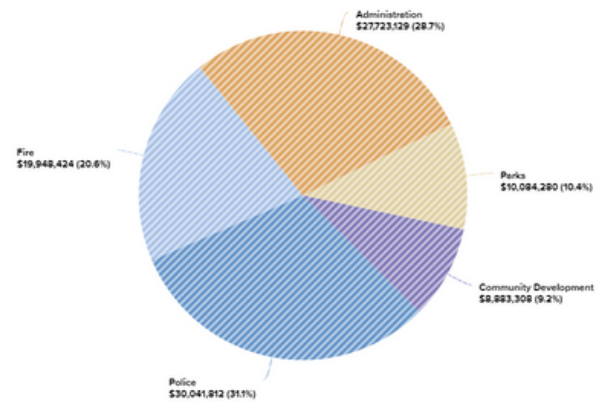
The **ENTERPRISE FUND** provides water and sewer service to Meridian residents and businesses. This fund is financed completely with fees. There are two principal types of fees: user fees, which are based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects" to the utility system.

Please note: capital is a one-time investment and the operating budget illustrates ongoing expenses.

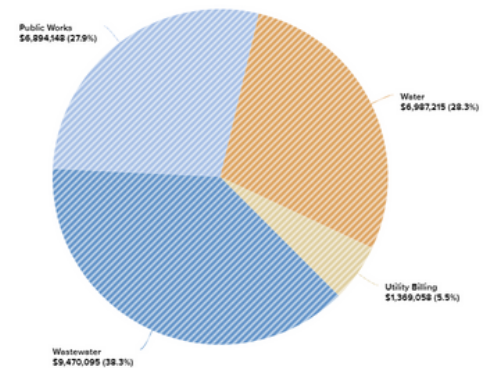
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



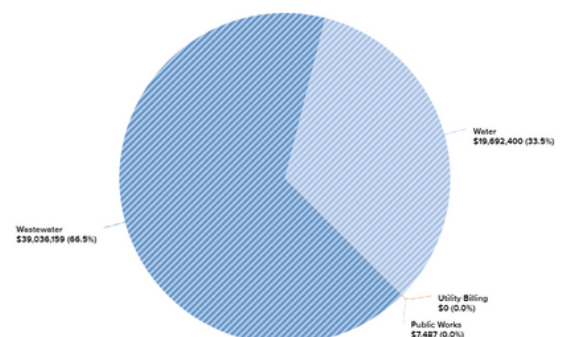
GENERAL FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



MERIDIAN LEADERSHIP



MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON



BRAD HOAGLUN
City Council President, Seat 3



JOE BORTON
City Council VP, Seat 1



LIZ STRADER
City Council, Seat 2



TREG BERNT
City Council, Seat 4



JESSICA PERREAU
City Council, Seat 5



LUKE CAVENER
City Council, Seat 6

Meridian City Council meets on the first four Tuesdays of each month at 4:30 p.m. for a Work Session, and again at 6:00 p.m. for the City Council Meeting which includes Public Hearings. For information on how to submit public testimony or attend a meeting in person or virtually, visit www.meridiancity.org/publicmeeting.

WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/COUNCIL



DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT

Bill Nary, City Attorney; Dave Tiede, Chief Information Officer; Laurelei McVey, Director of Public Works, Chief Tracy Basterrechea, Police; Todd Lavoie, Chief Financial Officer; Mayor Robert Simison; Steve Siddoway, Director of Parks and Recreation; Chief Kris Blume, Fire; Bruce Freckleton, Director of Community Development; Crystal Ritchie, Director of Human Resources; David Miles, Chief of Staff.

ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

LEADING THE WAY AWARD



The City of Meridian was recognized with ETC Institute's 2022 Leading the Way Award. This award recognizes local governments that rank in the top 10% of all communities in the United States with regard to resident satisfaction with the overall quality of local governmental services, customer service, and the value provided for local taxes and fees.

This award is a manifestation of the dedication our elected officials, city leaders, and staff have to developing premier services for our residents. City of Meridian employees take pride in not only the work they do, but how they do it.

ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

TOP INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

The City was awarded the 2022 APWA Rocky Mountain Project of the Year and was recognized for the 2022 Idaho Business Review's Top Infrastructure/Utility Projects of the Year. Both of these awards were for the completion of major upgrades to the Wastewater Resource Facility (WRRF), resulting in energy efficiency. These energy efficient upgrades included newer blowers, motors, and lighting. The City received an energy efficiency rebate check for \$307,000 for their completion of the expansive upgrades. Idaho Power calculated that energy efficient upgrades constructed with this project will save the City the annual energy equivalent of approximately 150 new homes being added to the grid.

MAYOR'S LEGACY AWARD

Mayor Simison presented the 2022 Mayor's Legacy Award to Pastor Steve Moore for a lifetime of involvement in Meridian and for his dedication to advocacy and ministry.

Steve Moore has deep roots in the Meridian community where he relied upon water to grow crops on his farm. But it was the role he played for 50 years as a different kind of farmer - and user of water - where he became a legacy in Meridian that will continue to be felt for generations.

As a pastor, Steve Moore made his mark in the Meridian community, never seeking the spotlight, advocating for what is right. The programs offered through Steve's ministry like Celebrate Recovery, Fall Festival, and TMC Sports, impact all generations and instill the culture of family, faith, and unity. Steve has left a legacy for generations to come.



MERIDIAN STARS AWARDS

Mayor Simison and City Council Members presented the 2022 Meridian Stars Awards to a group of deserving individuals within the community. The annual award recognizes Meridian residents and businesses that demonstrate a commitment to preserving, maintaining, and improving the quality of life and safety in our neighborhoods and community.



NOMINATE A STAR

WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/MERIDIANSTARS



TERRY AND JERRY RUSSELL

Neighbor of the Year



JORDYN EQUALS

Youth of the Year



SEPTEMBER FROGLEY

Mayor's Star of the Year



IRIS DAWSON

Senior of the Year

STAY CONNECTED

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