



MERIDIAN  
IDAHO

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2021 IN REVIEW

BY MAYOR SIMISON



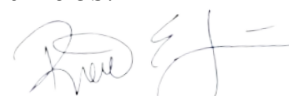
In 2021, the City of Meridian continued to navigate the extraordinary circumstances cities across America have faced, added to by the growth we experienced in Meridian and in Idaho. Nevertheless, our course was unchanged. As an organization, our priority was to keep the community moving forward, so we all could operate and conduct business. We are very proud of the way the Meridian family came together in this period. It has been a difficult and uncertain time for so many, but throughout our organization, we saw the ability to remain calm and focused, to work extremely hard, and to find innovative solutions where possible.

I continue to be grateful for employees who put the community first and for our residents, businesses, and organizations who engage with the City to help shape the direction we are going. With our new strategic plan in place, our direction is set to advance initiatives that are important to the community as we forge ahead.

We continue to deliver superior service through our committed, equipped employees, who are dedicated to the stewardship of the public's resources. During 2021 we made several advances, whether increasing our public noticing of development applications, limiting the ability to amend our comprehensive plan, or working with our partners to advance road improvement projects. Our goals include improving transportation for our citizens and increasing access to and transparency in services, and we have made great strides in them.

Reflecting on our many accomplishments in 2021, I can't help but appreciate the impressive achievements outlined in this report. We worked very hard to deliver city services in a way our residents had never seen: providing more opportunities for residents to engage in City business virtually, ensuring transparent government with access to our budget book and community development planning, and providing new online portals for residents to access information such as online payment and utility billing services and so much more.

As your Mayor, I am committed to addressing the challenges we face and to keeping Meridian's service premier and ever-improving. We will continue to be innovative in the work we do, and will stay focused on the fundamentals as public servants; we are here for our residents and business owners. Looking to the future, we are focused on ensuring we achieve our vision to be the West's premier community in which to live, work, and raise a family. This annual report outlines how we are doing just that as our journey continues.

  
**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.

## UTILIZING GROWTH TOOLS

One tool that is helping the City of Meridian with transportation and Responsible Growth is Urban Renewal Districts (URD). City Council approved these URD's during the last year to build off the success of other districts like the Ten Mile URD. Specifically, the Linder Urban Renewal District, which is planned to help fund the construction of the Linder Road Overpass. In addition, one new district was formed in downtown, the 126 acre Northern Gateway District, and the Union District was expanded. Both of these URDs will help with needed transportation projects and will help continue the revitalization efforts of our downtown to enhance the quality of life for all residents.

Projects which are moving forward in our URD's include the Old Town Lofts and Union 93, two mixed-use projects under construction and located right by City Hall. A future project in downtown will be the Civic Block. These three redevelopment projects are bringing a mix of residential units and commercial spaces to the historical heart of Meridian with the goal of encouraging residents to live, dine, and shop downtown.

In the Ten Mile URD, a groundbreaking was held for a new 75,000-square-foot building to meet continued demand for office space bringing more jobs to this employment area. This comes after the area welcomed new

tenants including First Colony Mortgage, ONE Grounds Management, and American Credit Acceptance.

## IMPROVED OPEN SPACES

Community Development has focused its efforts to change open space and amenity requirements in City Code. The latest changes include increasing the open space required for proposed subdivisions and clarifying the value of various amenities in new projects. Projects zoned R-4, or R-8 and R-15 now require 20 percent or 50 percent more open space, respectively. Also, larger projects require more amenities to be installed. An increase in the amount of open space required, based on zoning of the property, provides more recreation space and helps preserves Meridian's open space.

## FIELDS SUB-AREA PLAN

The City of Meridian approved the Fields Sub-Area plan for the NW corner of Meridian, to guide growth and development in this priority area. This ensures that the Fields Area implements the vision of the Comprehensive Plan, and is vibrant, self-sufficient, and distinctly Meridian. This four-square-mile area is primarily designated for future residential development, with a mixed-use community center at the southeast corner of Star and McMillan.

# 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.



## WASTEWATER RESOURCE AND RECOVERY FACILITY

The City completed a full year of operating the newly upgraded and expanded wastewater treatment facility. However, the work here never stops to enable the City to keep up with community needs and ever-increasing regulations. City staff spent much of the year designing the next phases of upgrades at the facility, including capacity-related projects like building another 800,000-gallon anaerobic digester to handle and treat the solids coming into the facility. They also worked on designing regulatory-driven projects like retrofitting the old plant and constructing an innovative sidestream phosphorus removal facility, which will be one of only a handful of these types of facilities in the country.

As the complexity and size of the facility continues to grow, our staff have also made the important transition milestone to a 24/7 schedule providing important operational oversight to ensure stringent regulatory requirements are met.

**2,417**

PASSPORT  
APPLICATIONS  
PROCESSED

**127,890**

POPULATION  
(PER COMPASS ESTIMATE)

**3.9B**

GALLONS OF  
WASTEWATER  
TREATED

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## STREETLIGHTS

Several projects were completed in 2021 to deploy additional streetlights into the community as well as retrofit existing streetlights to LED bulbs. New streetlights were installed along sections of Chinden as part of the widening as well as in underserved areas on Ten Mile Road and near Chaparral Elementary School. In addition, 465 streetlights were upgraded to LED bulbs. Using energy-efficient incentives from Idaho Power and the annual power savings from these upgrades, the City expects to see an ongoing savings of approximately \$34K annually in maintenance and electricity costs for these upgraded lights.

## WATER TREATMENT

The City must ensure that we have plentiful drinking water, in both quantity and quality. We are fortunate in Meridian to have a deep aquifer (like a deep underground lake) that has a plentiful water supply for Meridian even with the increasing demands of the community.

One of the City's priorities is to continue to improve water quality. To accomplish this, the City has been installing water treatment facilities that filter and remove natural constituents like iron and manganese. Within the next several years, the City will have the ability to treat most of its drinking water, which will significantly reduce brown water introduction into our system.

The City currently has 25 wells (with two more under design/construction) and five water treatment facilities (with five additional under design/construction).



**42,083**

WATER SERVICE  
CONNECTIONS

**5,637**

PERMITS/LICENSES  
ISSUED

**8,979**

TOTAL  
STREETLIGHTS  
OWNED AND  
MAINTAINED

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## TRANSPORTATION SUCCESSES

While the City does not have jurisdiction over Meridian's roads, sidewalks, and schools, the responsibility for these important areas to progress responsibly falls on all of us.

### **Linder Road Overpass**

One prime example of partnership is the progress made in 2021 toward the realization of the Linder Road overpass. The overpass will reduce congestion by removing an existing barrier to the efficient movement of people, goods, and services. The City allocated \$2.5 million to help move this project forward and is working with the Ada County Highway District, and Idaho Transportation Department to implement an agreement to begin design in 2022 on the overpass and road widening project.

### **Lake Hazel Road and Discovery Park Access**

Transportation improvements can also be made through partnerships between the City, developers, and transportation agencies. Through a reimbursement and development agreement, Brighton Corporation will be expanding Lake Hazel Road between Eagle Road and Locust Grove. Through the development agreement they will also be installing Recreation Way which will be the eventual access point for Discovery Park. Through these investments, citizens and first responders will have better access to south Meridian and Discovery Park via the road, and bicyclist and pedestrian facilities.

### **Chinden Boulevard/Highway 20/26**

Working in partnership with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), the development community continues to make improvements to Chinden Boulevard. Two projects financed with Sales Tax Anticipation Revenue (STAR) agreements, helped Chinden expand to four travel lanes, two in each direction, from State Highway 16 to Meridian

Road. This project was joined by ITD's completion of the segment of Chinden from Locust Grove to Eagle. Soon, the remainder stretch between Meridian and Locust Grove Roads will also be complete, finalizing this 5 miles of long-needed road improvements.

### **ACHD Road Projects**

Important transportation improvements in the last year include the widening of Eagle Road from Victory to Amity and the expansion of the roundabout at Ten Mile Road and Amity Road to multiple lanes. This project included multiuse pathways on both sides of Eagle Road improving travel for multiple modes of transportation.

A temporary intersection was installed at Ustick Road and Black Cat Road to benefit the opening of Owyhee High School. Another interim signal was installed at the Star Road/Ustick Road intersection and a third interim signal was built at Star Road/McMillan Road. These 3x3 intersections include three 12-foot wide travel lanes. These temporary intersection improvements are underway to help meet the increased traffic demand around the school. Ustick Road was also widened and re-striped to provide a center turn lane allowing more vehicle capacity at the McDermott Road intersection in both directions.

In an effort to address safety concerns at 8th Street, an enhanced pedestrian crossing was installed at Meridian Middle School.

### **Public Transportation**

Meridian coordinated with Valley Regional transit to launch a new Rides-to-Wellness service for Meridian Veterans to schedule rides to the VA Medical Center in Boise. Funding was continued for the Valley Regional Transit on Route 30, which will connect The Village with Ten Mile.

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Mayor Simison, Meridian City Council, and City staff have worked closely with partner agencies such as West Ada School District and the Meridian Library District to ensure we are growing cohesively as a community and providing necessary education resources for all residents.

2021 brought an increase in capacity for Meridian students through building expansions and new schools. Owyhee High School brought 1,800 new seats to the northwest area. Meridian High School added a new auditorium and band room to its campus. Idaho Fine Arts Academy (IFAA) began construction to relocate its school to a new campus adjacent to Renaissance High School, which will double its student capacity.

Looking to charter schools, Gem Prep: Meridian North also opened its doors. The school will initially serve K-5 and then expand each year to end up serving K-12. Gem Prep: Meridian South also broke ground in November. This school will serve K-5 and expand to K-12 as well.

### **Meridian Library District**

Another success to education and early literacy was the Meridian Library District's latest branch, unBound. Located in downtown Meridian, unBound continues to adapt to our community's needs and is positioned to provide the training, technology, and spaces our workforce needs to thrive. Some of the unique attributes include large capacity printers for business plans and branding materials, 3D printing for prototypes, and podcast and video editing software for local entrepreneurs.

Construction began on the Meridian Library District's future north branch in the Orchard Park development at Chinden and Linder roads. The new library is expected to open in fall 2022 and will offer 24-hour holds access, a drive-up book return, an active child space focused on early learning, an interactive learning lab, and a sensory room.



# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

## PATHWAY PROGRESS

Meridian's rapidly expanding pathways system continues to improve community connectivity while expanding the range of amenities available to cyclists and pedestrians.

### **The Ten Mile Trailhub**

Our first-ever trailhead and gateway to the pathway system was completed in 2021. This small park-like site features parking for 20 cars, a central plaza area with seating, landscape- and site-furnishings, and utility infrastructure for a future restroom facility.

### **Fairview Avenue Connection**

Fall of 2021 saw completion of the much-needed Fairview Avenue connection. This stretch of the Five Mile Creek Pathway had previously been 'lost' along Fairview Avenue. The new 10' wide sidewalk with curb and gutter provides a safer, stronger, and more visible route along Fairview Avenue, guiding users to where the pathway continues to the north at N. Lakes Place.

### **Pathway Infill Projects**

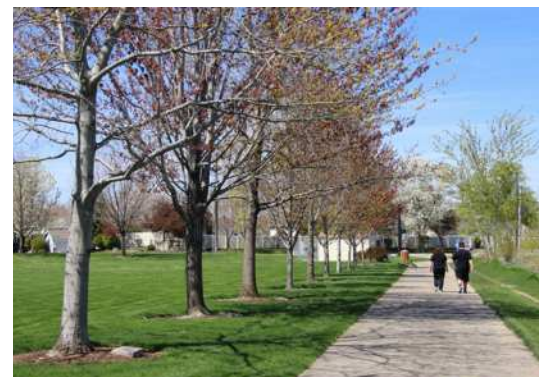
Previously, Meridian Parks staff worked with three consultant teams to complete conceptual design and feasibility evaluations for twelve potential pathway infill projects. These projects targeted short-but-crucial 'missing teeth' segments with the goal of enhancing connectivity across the pathway system. After shortlisting the most feasible and impactful

projects from this group, construction plans were completed in 2021 for four of these important pathway connections.

These include sidewalk widenings on Linder and Locust Grove Roads, one segment of the Five Mile Creek Pathway at Linder/Ustick, and a new stretch of pathway serving existing neighborhoods just north of 8th Street Park. These four infill projects are currently awaiting ACHD approval, with plans to bid early in 2022 and construct in the spring. Design for two additional pathway segments: missing segments at Meridian and Victory Roads, and a new stretch of Five Mile Creek Pathway between Ten Mile and Blackcat, are in design currently and will move forward in 2022.

### **Five Miles on the Five Mile Pathway - Yellow Center Stripe**

In response to community requests for enhanced wayfinding and to draw attention to this increasingly significant recreational asset, City staff commissioned the painting of a dashed yellow line down the center of the Five Mile Pathway beginning at the new Trailhub at Ten Mile Road through the heart of town, as far east as Locust Grove Road. Signaled pedestrian crossings exist throughout the entire striped route. Additional striping is planned for future stretches of the Five Mile Creek Pathway as they are completed.





# 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.

## DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

The first-ever State of Downtown meeting was held, with more than 130 downtown stakeholders participating in the virtual event. The City used it as an opportunity to inform participants of the urban renewal activities, current and future developments, and existing market conditions.

More jobs were brought to the downtown with Keller and Associates building its new three-story corporate headquarters along Main Street which helps them meet their existing and future growth needs as a company.

## COMMUNITY FUNDED PROJECTS

As an entitlement city receiving federal funds through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City's Community Development Block Grant program is able to fund infrastructure improvements in designated neighborhoods as well as direct assistance to qualifying households.

The City's allocation assisted 103 individuals in qualifying households with housing expenses and three households with emergency, accessibility, and weatherization repairs. In addition, grant dollars funded extended care scholarships for 46 children, Fairview Avenue sidewalk improvements, including ADA-compliant curb cuts and ramps to improve accessibility, and 18 modernized streetlights, enhancing safe routes to schools for Meridian Middle School and Meridian High School.

**\$293M**

NEW COMMERCIAL  
BUILDING  
VALUATION

**75%**

HOMEOWNERSHIP  
RATE

**2,530**

JOBS ADDED

## BUSINESS & ECONOMIC VITALITY

88

BUILDING PERMITS  
FOR COMMERCIAL  
PROJECTS

802,890

NEW COMMERCIAL  
SQUARE FOOTAGE

578

NEW BUSINESS  
ESTABLISHMENTS

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Meridian continues to be a sought-after location for businesses seeking a Pacific Northwest presence as well as existing businesses needing to expand to accommodate recent and anticipated future growth.

Several companies chose to locate in the mixed-used Eagle View Landing project, located on the northeast corner of Eagle and Overland including Kiln, a company offering flexible workspace and co-working opportunities, occupying nearly 50,000 square feet. Additionally, Hanger Clinic, a provider of prosthetic and orthotic care, and TitleOne also opened their offices. Woodspring Suites and Hyatt Place are under construction and will add to the City's hospitality offerings in 2022. In addition, Eagle View Landing is completing 21,000 square feet of retail space and broke ground on a new 150,000-square-foot office building.

South of Overland, there is activity at the Silverstone and El Dorado developments. Establishing a presence in the Pacific Northwest, Americor launched operations in a 20,300-square-foot space. Leyngold Institute of Plastic Surgery and Peripheral Vascular Partners both opened offices, enhancing the City's strong health care industry. And, a new 72,000-square-foot office building is under construction, with tenants to be announced this spring.

The City was able to work with several industrial businesses to facilitate their expansions and continued growth despite historically low vacancy rates in the industrial sector of the commercial real estate market.

Scentsy is expanding its campus, constructing more than 250,000-square-feet of manufacturing warehouse, and distribution space to accommodate its continued success. Red Aspen, a Meridian-grown cosmetics company, will build a new 30,000-square-foot facility which will include its corporate headquarters and fulfillment facility. Advanced Sign and Decalcomania held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new 62,000-square-foot facility which will allow the companies to consolidate and continue to expand all operations in a single location.

Meridian-based technology and professional and financial services sectors continued to experience significant growth. Technology firms In Time Tec and CompuNet added employees and expanded their office footprints.

In the advanced manufacturing sector, JST Manufacturing consolidated its operations at the new Meridian location. The 40-year old company manufactures custom specialty machinery, serving global clients in the semiconductor, biomedical, food processing, and other clean industries.

# 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.

## AARP NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY STATES AND COMMUNITIES

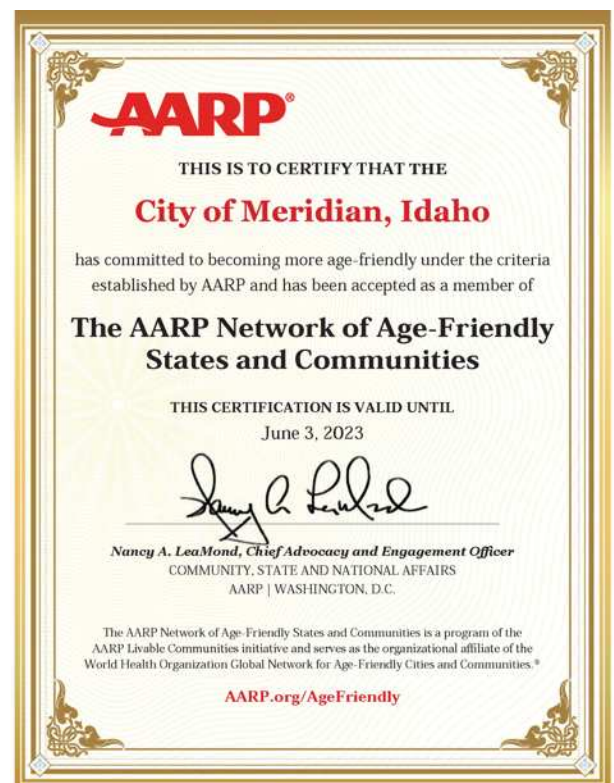
Like many cities across the country, Meridian is experiencing a demographic shift: since 2010, the median age has increased from 32 to 36, and the population of Meridian residents aged 65 or older has increased from 8.9% to 12.8%. Ensuring that our community is livable for residents of all ages is more important than ever. With this objective in mind, the City officially joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities (NAFSC) in May 2021, thereby gaining access to online informational resources provided by AARP, as well as best practices from other communities all across the country who are committed to making their areas more livable and age-friendly for people of all stages.

Cities that join the NAFSC participate in a structured, multi-year process of assessment, goal-setting, and action plan implementation, with the overall aim of improving their livability for residents. In 2021, City staff worked with AARP Idaho and Vitruvian Planning to create an initial assessment for the City of Meridian.

In 2022, the goal is to use this assessment as a roadmap for a Livability Working Group, which will consist of key stakeholders whose insights

and recommendations will help steer the process and lead to the creation of a livability action plan.

Additional work in 2022 includes the distribution of AARP's age-friendly survey, as well as the hosting of listening sessions that will gauge what aspects of livability Meridian residents wish for the City to prioritize or improve for the future.



## VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

44.07

MILES OF  
PATHWAYS

1,914

SHELTER  
RESERVATIONS

98

ARTISTS HOSTED  
BY INITIAL POINT  
GALLERY

### WRAPPING MERIDIAN WITH ARTWORK

Through the efforts of the Meridian Arts Commission, Meridian has 11 new traffic box wraps created by local artists. More than half of the new art designs installed during the past year were created by students of the 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 all around us.

### NEW ART MURAL

Mayor Simison and members of the Meridian Arts Commission unveiled the first of three art murals to be featured on the walls of Meridian businesses. Artist Ben Konkol's creation features a colorful vintage bicycle on an exterior wall of Meridian Cycles located at 1203 N. Main Street in downtown Meridian. The mural, which is 24 feet wide and nearly 7 feet tall, highlights the history of downtown Meridian while bringing a fresh contemporary look that adds visual flair to the area. Several artists have expressed interest in the Meridian Mural Series and the Meridian Arts Commission is presently scouting potential locations for two additional murals. Once selected, the artists will work closely with the property owners and the Meridian Arts Commission to develop suitable mural designs that represent Meridian's values as a dynamic urban community.



# VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

## LAKEVIEW GOLF COURSE

Since assuming ownership of Lakeview Golf Club in November 2020, the City of Meridian has been taking steps to make it a driving force in community golf.

Early in the year, consultants from the National Golf Foundation began gathering information from the Lakeview Golf Club's leadership team, evaluating the course's condition, and identifying its short-term and long-term needs in order to create a Master Plan for its future success.

The Master Plan centers around four primary areas - management structure, capital improvement plans, playing fees, and food and beverage service. It identifies strategies to help Lakeview Golf Club attain financial sustainability while providing a high-quality and affordable recreation amenity for Meridian residents and visitors. The final 116-page strategic plan was presented to Meridian City Council in September.

Mayor Simison and Council have invested funding into this golf course to ensure the open space amenity is safe, usable, and fun for everyone. The fleet of aging golf carts was replaced with new golf carts, now available for rental through the clubhouse. The wooden bridge at hole #4 was replaced, and several tees are being reconstructed.

Also, in response to the community's desire for more monitoring presence, a new group of City volunteers was trained last summer and fall to serve as Ambassadors at the club. During their shifts, they greet golfers, share rules and information pertaining to course play and conditions, monitor the pace of play, and help ensure that proper etiquette is being demonstrated by golfers and spectators alike.

Meridian's city arborist conducted a detailed tree inventory of the 700+ trees at Lakeview Golf Club to sustain and flourish the green spaces.

Looking to the future, plans for irrigation replacements and improvements at the golf course are currently being finalized and will be put out to bid. Plans are also being developed for a new well and consolidated water rights and new cart paths to replace the current gravel pathways.



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK  
@MERIDIANPARKSANDRECREATION

422

RECREATION  
CLASSES &  
ACTIVITIES

334

ACRES OF  
MAINTAINED  
PARKLAND

684

TREES ADDED  
TO THE PARKS  
SYSTEM

# 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.

**7:14**

AVERAGE  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TIME  
(MFD)

**2,932**

FIRE INSPECTIONS  
COMPLETED

**9,148**

CALLS FOR  
SERVICE  
(MFD)

## COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

Meridian City Council formally adopted Meridian Fire Department's Community Risk Assessment, to aid in maintaining a proactive and engaged approach to risk reduction. This Community Risk Assessment is vital in helping the Meridian Fire Department operate as safely and efficiently as possible. It also furthers the city's strategic planning process, as well as evaluates operational needs, and helps determine and justify financial needs. The process for this report was a data and information-driven method for identifying the areas of the City and fire department where improvements could be made to lessen risks to our citizens. To read the full report visit: [www.meridiancity.org/communityriskassessment](http://www.meridiancity.org/communityriskassessment)

## FARS REPLACES THE BOTTLE BRIGADE IN NEW MERIDIAN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS

Meridian is the first city in the State of Idaho to have Firefighter Air Replenishment System (FARS) equipment installed for firefighters to train with. This new technology, funded through the Firefighter Air Coalition, is critical in protecting firefighters and residents. FARS equipment is traditionally installed in tall buildings, in large horizontal structures, and below ground structures and tunnels to deliver a safe, immediate, almost endless supply of air replenishment to firefighters inside buildings. With FARS, firefighters can refill their air bottles in two minutes or less under full respiration at fill stations located throughout a building – a much faster, safer, and more reliable way to resupply air.



## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

### MERIDIAN FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPLETES THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

To evaluate the Meridian Fire Departments ability to meet the increasing needs of its residents, the department underwent the process to develop a three-year Strategic Plan. 21 members of the Meridian Fire Department from firefighters to the fire chief participated in the plan creation along with 32 community members. This plan was created with community input through service delivery surveys, interviews and testimonials.

Identifying the Meridian Fire Departments strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges, they were able to identify seven strategic focus areas to better serve the city of Meridian.

- Staffing
- Organizational and Personal Development
- Training
- Technology and Data
- Emergency Services
- Community Risk Reduction
- Communication

### PREVENTION IS KEY

The most effective method of fire prevention is public education. Meridian Fire Department was fortunate in 2021 to resume some in-school and in-person public education opportunities.

Through these opportunities, nearly 1,500 people received training in hands-only CPR through a new partnership with the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department.

Protecting Meridian's youngest citizens was also top of mind. Meridian car seat events provided education to families on how to properly secure their children. These efforts also provided 90 car seats to residents in need through a grant program with the Idaho Department of Transportation.

### ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The Meridian Fire Department inspected and serviced over 2,600 smoke or carbon monoxide alarms. During the alarm inspections, Meridian Fire personnel also provided home safety inspections to check for fire hazards, evacuation hazards, and any other visible safety concerns in the home.



## PUBIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

### MERIDIAN ANTI-DRUG COALITION

The Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) is led by a group of community volunteers, helping to strengthen our community through substance abuse prevention. Last year the coalition provided prevention education at 62 events partnering with more than 40 businesses.

At West Ada School District, the coalition provided training to 130 school administrators and counselors to recognize drugs of abuse, paraphernalia, and signs of use. MADC also created a Natural High public service announcement for The Village Theatre and collected 1,391 pounds of medications for safe disposal at two annual take-back events.

Each of us can help reduce substance abuse, in our family and our community, through prevention education and support. Visit [www.meridianmadc.org](http://www.meridianmadc.org) or check us out on Facebook (MeridianMADC) to learn more.

### POLICE YOUTH SAFETY ACADEMY

During the summer of 2021, the Crime Prevention Unit implemented a new program; the Youth Safety Academy. This program is designed to give Meridian youth ages 14-18 the opportunity to learn about the Meridian Police Department and gain an understanding of the functions and responsibilities that come with providing law enforcement services in the City of Meridian. A spinoff of the adult Public Safety Academy, the Youth Safety Academy emphasizes youth community leadership and career development.

Youth who live or attend school in the City of Meridian are eligible to apply. Once selected, students attend the 5-day program, which provides an inside look into the Meridian Police Department and specialty units as well as law enforcement training, policy, and practices.



**62,192**

CALLS FOR  
SERVICE  
(MPD)

**2,128**

ARRESTS

**3:45**

AVERAGE  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TIME  
(MPD)



## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY



### PUBLIC SAFETY EXPANSIONS

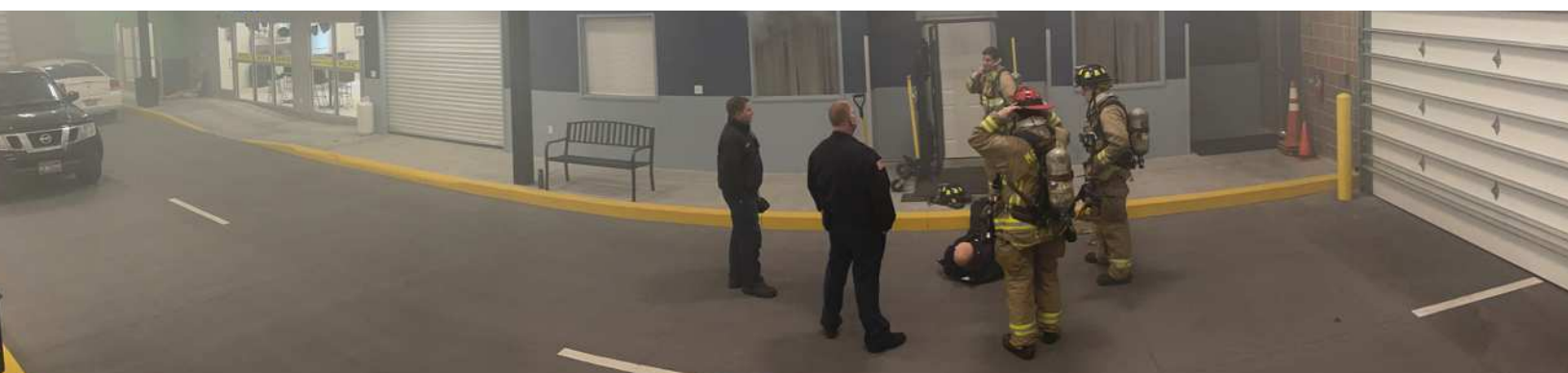
Construction was completed on Meridian's Scenario Training Center (MSTC), a multi-functional learning space used by the Fire Department and Police Department for department and academy training scenarios. This training center is a two-story building totaling 11,698 square feet. The facility features an indoor scenario village with a faux streetscape. It includes structures that accurately resemble residential living spaces and several commercial-style storefronts.

MSTC is adaptable to meet specific training needs of the departments ensuring Meridian's first responders are adequately prepared for incidents they might face in real life. Building interiors can be changed to provide first responders both variety and realism in a controlled environment and can be reconfigured for any police, fire, or medical emergency scenario. Because of the

adaptability of the facility, scenarios that would have previously taken multiple days to set up can now be set up and training completed within a few hours.

MSTC is already being utilized daily by both the Fire Department and Police Department with plans to begin conducting multi-agency exercises by early 2022.

Looking to the future, Meridian Fire Department Stations 7 and 8 are expected to begin construction in 2022, with both stations staffed and operational by fall 2023. The new Meridian Police Department Substation is currently in the design development phase. These new stations will help sustain response times and allow both police and fire to better serve their community.



# 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.

## A TRANSPARENT & OPEN GOVERNMENT

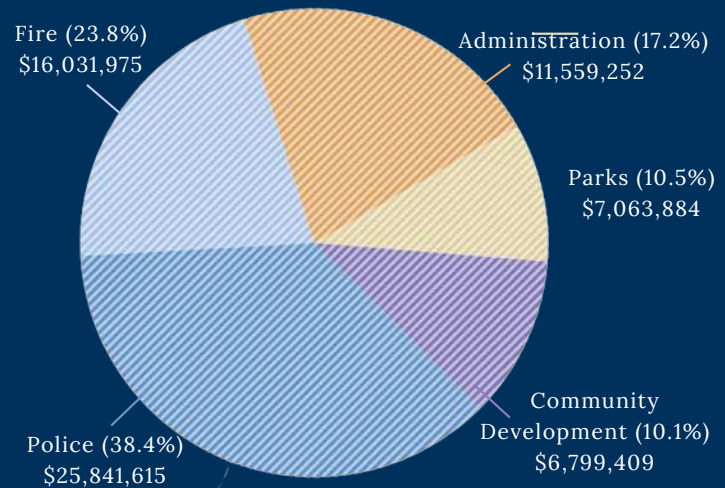
The City's financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. This requires a proactive approach to budgeting revenues, long-range financial planning and economic forecasting, saving for large capital projects, and collaboration between all of the City's departments. The URL at the bottom of this page will lead you to the Fiscal Year 2022 budgets which began October 1, 2021. 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.

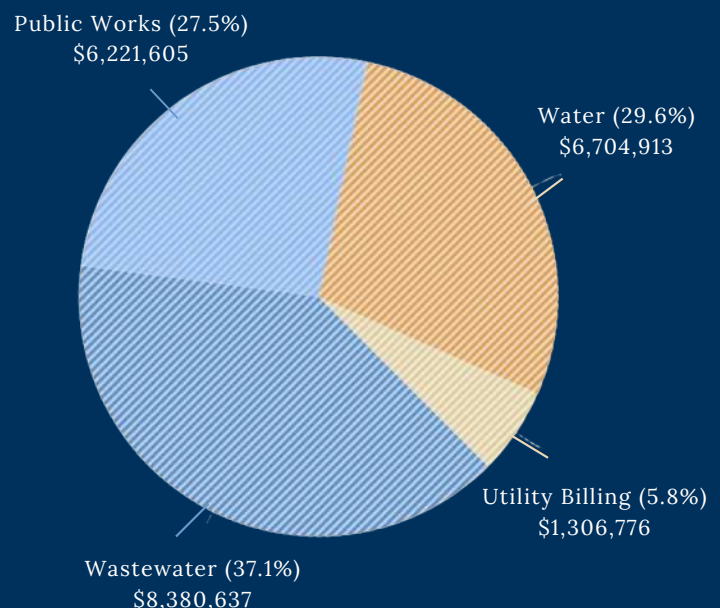
[WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/FINANCE](http://WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/FINANCE)

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

## GENERAL FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



## ENTERPRISE FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



# GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE



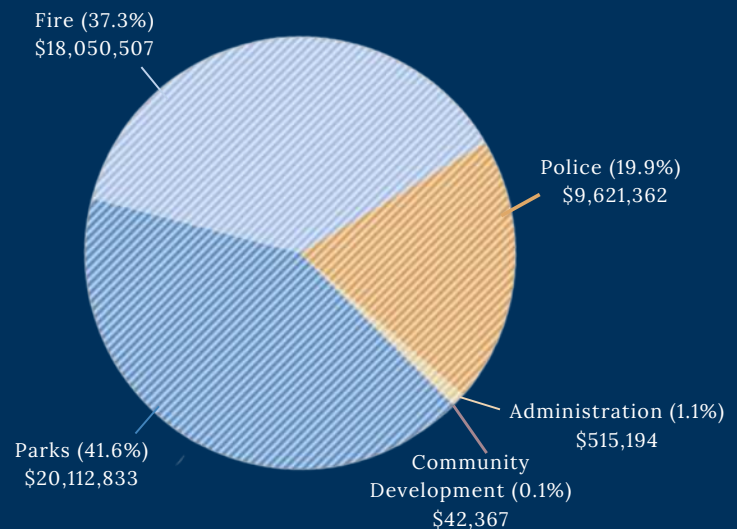
## A RESPONSIBLE & BALANCED BUDGET

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

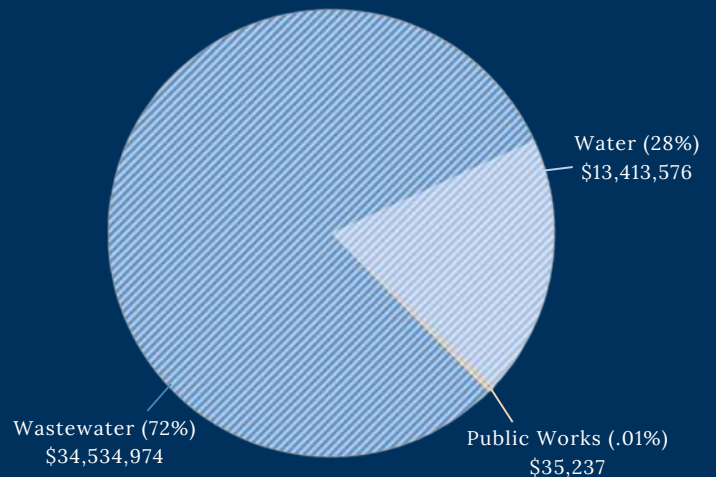
The **GENERAL FUND** pays for basic City services: Community Development and Planning, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police, and Administration.

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.

## GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



## ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



# GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Meridian Community Development and Information Technology Departments diligently worked over the past year to increase the ability to serve customers online. This includes employing software for electronic plan review and accepting applications online for nearly all projects. Customers can provide all required documentation to the City without ever leaving their home or office. Customers can engage with the City and keep track of their development projects with access to real-time data that show which reviews and inspections need to be completed, automatic emails when customers need to act on a project, the ability to schedule either in person or virtual meetings with City staff, pay fees, and schedule inspections: all online!

## IMPROVING PROCESSES

Our Meridian Innovation and Change Academy was busy in 2021! The Innovation Academy trains employees to improve processes in their workspace by providing training resources to staff. Our staff completed 14 process improvements, which yielded almost 600 hours of waste reduction from our current processes. One process improvement that saved our customer's time was the Qualified Licensed Professional Engineer (QLPE) review process. Through careful evaluation, our staff identified several areas that could be streamlined and reduced each process completed by over seven days!

## NEW APPLICATION PROCESS

In an effort to maximize the customer experience when applying for employment with the City, Information Technology in conjunction with Human Resources developed a robust online application system. The new system, known as E-recruit, addresses the City's recruitment needs today and into the future. This new system provides greater functionality, ease of use, is mobile-friendly, allows for applicant profiles, reduces the time needed to complete an application, provides the applicants with application statuses, and allows the user to subscribe or unsubscribe to job alerts.

Additionally, it provides greater internal efficiencies and transparency with designated access and works towards the goal of paperless recruitment (reducing the use of paper and storage needs). The feedback received thus far has been very positive. The team continues to take customer suggestions and implement enhancements to the system to continue to provide greater efficiencies.



## MERIDIAN LEADERSHIP



**MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON**

## MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL



**LIZ STRADER**



**JOE BORTON**



**BRAD HOAGLUN**



**TREG BERNT**



**JESSICA PERREAU**



**LUKE CAVENER**

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](http://www.meridiancity.org/publicmeeting).

[WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/COUNCIL](http://WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/COUNCIL)

## MERIDIAN LEADERSHIP



### PUBLIC WORKS

Laurelei McVey  
Director

### FINANCE

Todd Lavoie  
Chief Financial Officer

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bruce Freckleton  
Director

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dave Tiede  
Chief Information Officer

### MAYOR'S OFFICE

David Miles  
Chief of Staff

### FIRE

Kris Blume  
Fire Chief

### PARKS & RECREATION

Steve Siddoway  
Director

### POLICE

Tracy Basterrechea  
Chief of Police

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Crystal Ritchie  
Director

### LEGAL

Bill Nary  
City Attorney

### MERIDIAN CARE VALUES

**C**ustomer Service

**A**ccountability

**R**espect

**E**xcellence



# ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

## MAYOR'S LEGACY AWARD



Mayor Simison presented the 2021 Mayor's Legacy Award to Toni Smith for a lifetime of involvement in Meridian and for her dedication to the youth throughout the Treasure Valley. She has been an active volunteer for decades with the Special Olympics of Idaho, the American Heart Association, Boys & Girls Clubs of Ada County, Ronald McDonald House, St. Luke's Regional Medical Centers in Meridian and Eagle, and the Meridian Kiwanis Club. Most recently Smith played a role in the Chamber's first Job Shadowing Day in Meridian and coordinated a school backpack program. What stood out was how instrumental she was in starting the Meridian Chamber Scholarship Program, which awards seven students in the Treasure Valley with a 1,000 dollar scholarship - a true Legacy project. We thank Toni for her continued dedication to the community.

## MERIDIAN STARS

Mayor Simison and City Council Members presented the 2021 Meridian Stars Awards to a group of deserving individuals and businesses within the community (below). 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.

Each year, we look to the community to submit nominations of deserving individuals or organizations that deserve recognition for their above-and-beyond attitudes and commitment to the community.



**NOMINATE A STAR**  
[WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/MERIDIANSTARS](http://WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/MERIDIANSTARS)

### Large Business of the Year Meridian Library District



### Small Business of the Year Gem State Developmental Center



### Senior of the Year Al Fleming



### Youth of the Year Audrey Thompson



### Neighbor of the Year Kelly Shafer



## ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

### HEART SAFE MERIDIAN

The City of Meridian was honored with the City Achievement Award in the category of Public Safety from the Association of Idaho Cities.

The City Achievement Award, which recognizes the work of cities around Idaho that have implemented pioneering approaches to improve quality of life, address community challenges, and enhance service delivery in cost-effective ways, was given to the City of Meridian for implementation of a community-wide Heart Safe Meridian program.

This program focuses on the importance of learning how to save a life should cardiac arrest occur. The City of Meridian also committed to placing AEDs in areas throughout the city where many live, work, and play. One area of focus that attributed to this year's award was the innovative solutions at Meridian's parks and sports fields. The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department built cabinetry at a significant cost savings so those visiting a Meridian park can easily locate and use an AED.

The collaboration and efforts towards the Heart Safe Meridian program were creative, innovative, and solution-oriented. These AED boxes improve the likelihood of survival should a life threatening emergency occur.

They enhance service delivery in a way that is more accessible to the public.



### LEADING THE WAY

The City of Meridian was ranked in the top 10% of all U.S. cities in terms of resident satisfaction with local government services. This included customer service and the value provided for local taxes and fees. The City received ETC Institute's prestigious Leading the Way Award as recognition for its accomplishment. City of Meridian employees take pride not just in the work they do, but how they do it.



# #2

Best Places to  
Live in Idaho

HOMESNACKS

# #3

Fastest Growing  
Cities in the U.S.

WALLET HUB



## ACCOLADES & RECOGNITIONS

### FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR

Meridian Firefighter Engineer Sean Stear was awarded Servpro Idaho's First Responder of the Year award on December 21, 2021, during the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl. He was nominated for this award because of his incredible work ethic and desire to truly grow within the department. After suffering an on-duty traumatic brain injury, returning to work was not a guarantee. When faced with the possibility of his career ending, Sean became determined to not only return to work but was motivated to begin testing for promotion. With the use of adaptive equipment such as specialty earplugs to help with migraines, Sean made it back to work in record time. Once back, he tested for and was ranked number 1 in his class for promotion from firefighter to engineer.

Engineer Stear is an outstanding member of the Meridian Fire Department. He is constantly giving more of himself than he expects to receive. He has volunteered to help the Public Education Division and is well known as Sparky the Fire Dog mascot. Sean is also an incredible mentor to new firefighters within the department. He is a founding member of the Meridian Fire Departments Peer Support Team which is set up to help other first responders deal with difficult times and mental health.

Engineer Sean Stear is a true example of the City of Meridian's CARES values and the Meridian Way.



### ENRIQUE "KIKI" CAMERENA AWARD

Meridian Police Officer Leroy Sunada was presented the Enrique "Kiki" Camerena Award from the Idaho State Elks Association Drug Awareness Program. Officer Sunada has been a Meridian Police Officer for 15 years and serves as the school resource officer to six schools in Meridian. He was recognized for his efforts to help keep youth drug-free through his involvement with the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition, along with the respect he holds with the community and Meridian Police Department.



**#6**

Best Places to  
Raise a Family

**HOMESNACKS**

**#11**

Idaho's  
Safest Cities

**SAFewise**

# #MYMERIDIAN



## STAY IN THE KNOW



### FIND US ONLINE

Whether you're new to the area or have deep roots in Meridian, you can find valuable community information on our website. Our homepage allows you to navigate our departments, connect with City Council, and pay your utility bill.

[WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG](http://WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG)

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The City's website plays host to a community calendar. Visit the calendar to keep up on public events and happenings throughout Meridian or to add your community events for others to find.

[WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/CALENDAR](http://WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/CALENDAR)

### SUBSCRIBE FOR UPDATES

The City of Meridian is committed to keeping the community in the know on all things happening. We send e-newsletters out every other week and share media releases as important information becomes available. We encourage residents to subscribe to the e-newsletter on our website for these updates.

[WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.MERIDIANCITY.ORG/SUBSCRIBE)



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