



2023 IN REVIEW

BY MAYOR SIMISON

I'm honored to present the 2023 City of Meridian Annual Report. The past year has been marked by strong progress in key focus areas of Responsible Growth; Transportation & Infrastructure; Business & Economic Vitality; Public Health & Safety; Vibrant & Sustainable Community; and Government Excellence. One of the cornerstones of our success has been our collaborative approach. We engaged with key stakeholders, seeking partnership solutions that amplify our collective impact. This spirit of collaboration enabled us to build upon our momentum and achieve our goals together.



Throughout the year, we experienced advancements in infrastructure, supporting our city's foundation. Economic vitality continued to thrive, with various initiatives ensuring that Meridian remains a hub for business and innovation. Our transportation initiatives saw great strides, making commuting easier and more efficient for our residents.


We remained dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Meridian, prioritizing open spaces and recreation. New pathways, public art, and additional park amenities were introduced to provide more opportunities for outdoor activities and leisure. Public safety services were expanded with large investments, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community members and first responders. We celebrated new businesses, large and small, come to Meridian to further employment opportunities.

We've maintained the high standard of customer service that our citizens have come to expect. As you peruse this report, you'll read about a lot of the accomplishments lead by the dedicated Meridian team, whose commitment to the Meridian Way – characterized by CARE (Customer Service, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence) – is evident in all our interactions with the community.

As we continue to plan for the future of Meridian, our focus areas support our mission, which is to deliver superior service through our committed and well-equipped employees, who are dedicated to the stewardship of the public's resources and the realization of our vision as a vibrant, livable, and connected community.

While we celebrate the successes of 2023, we acknowledge that there is more work to do. I eagerly anticipate the journey ahead, and am honored to lead the City of Meridian as we discover what we can achieve together and the significant milestones that await us.

With your support and collaboration, I am confident that we will not only meet but exceed your expectations. Together, we will continue to build upon our vision of Meridian as the West's premier community in which to live, work, and raise a family.


ROBERT SIMISON
Mayor, City of Meridian



RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

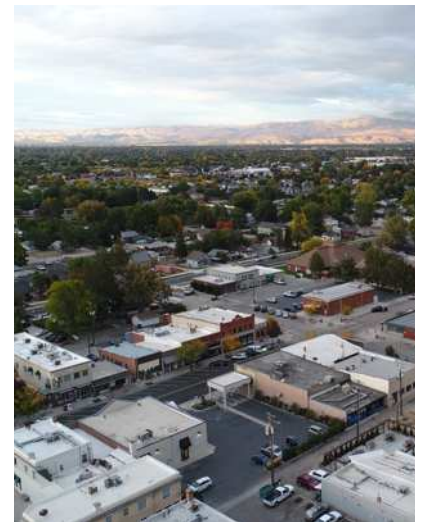
Meridian will responsibly promote growth that enhances its long-term comprehensive vision and prioritizes infill development. We will encourage affordable, diverse housing options and high-quality communities.

RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

Meridian continued its efforts to update the City's Unified Development Code (UDC). The UDC consists of the standards and specifications which carry out the policies set forth in the city's comprehensive plan, a plan which lays out Meridian's Vision and guide for the future. Key changes made to the (UDC) were aimed at fostering both family-friendly neighborhoods and a thriving business environment, including:

- Updated advertising controls: Approved changes making it against the law to advertise illegal activity or establishments that sell a controlled substance or drug paraphernalia as defined in Idaho Code 37-2701.
- Expanded childcare options: Recognizing the need for convenient childcare solutions, the UDC was amended to allow family-sized daycares within R-2 low-density residential zones. These "accessory" daycares must be operated within a primary residence, ensuring compatibility with the updated code.
- Streamlined permitting process for drinking establishments: The UDC was revised to establish clearer and more efficient standards for permitting new bars and restaurants. These updated standards are intended to streamline the process for businesses proposed in commercial areas while protecting neighborhoods from outside activities and events.
- Updated parking requirements: The UDC was further refined to include modifications to parking regulations.



MERIDIANCITY.ORG/UDC

751

PASSPORT
APPLICATIONS
PROCESSED

3,766

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

2,113

PERMITS/LICENSES
ISSUED

724,142

DOCUMENTS
RECORDED



RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

STREETLIGHT MASTER PLAN

The Public Works Department completed the first-ever Streetlight Master Plan for the City of Meridian. This important document captured current conditions and practices and outlined a path for future streetlight enhancements and upgrades. The plan identifies the work needed to upgrade all of its older halogen streetlights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) over the next several years. This conversion saves money both on power and maintenance over the life of the streetlight. The Streetlight Master Plan also identifies areas of the City for future streetlight investment to help our neighborhoods remain safe.

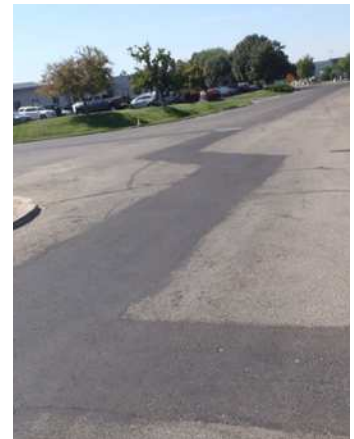
10,155

STREETLIGHTS MAINTAINED
BY THE CITY



SEWER AND WATER EXTENSIONS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Public Works Department completed several important water and sewer line extensions and replacements throughout the City in 2023. Working collaboratively with the Ada County Highway District, the City added or upgraded over a mile of water and sewer lines in areas like Eagle Road and Ten Mile Road to take advantage of the roadways already being disrupted with roadwork. Working in conjunction with ACHD and ITD, the City saves money and minimizes the need for future road closures. The City also completed an important water line replacement project, which replaced approximately half a mile segment of failing water lines on Hickory Road to prevent continued leaks and breaks. The City also completed important work in the downtown area, replacing old water and sewer lines located in the alley ways along Broadway from NE 3rd to NE 6th street. The new lines provide improved access for operations and maintenance and have an improved lifespan of up to 100 years.



6,946

HYDRANTS

704

MILES OF WATER LINE

2.8%

UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE

60,141

TOTAL JOBS



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 I-84 overpass project is rapidly approaching completion of final design. Both the overpass and the associated 5-lane roadway improvements from Overland to Franklin will include features which enhance impacted adjacent neighborhoods including additional pedestrian and bicycle crossings and vertical landscape improvements as well as artwork. An essential boost to this project came in the form of a \$4.3 million grant the city received from the Idaho Transportation Department through their Strategic Initiatives Program. This financial support is instrumental in propelling the Linder Road Overpass project forward.



WIDENING MAJOR ROADWAYS

- Locust Grove Road, Victory to Overland was completed in 2023. The project widened the street with two lanes in each direction, installed a multi-use pathway and includes a dual-lane roundabout at the Victory and Locust Grove intersection.
- Lake Hazel Road was widened between Locust Grove and Eagle Road and a roundabout was created at Locust Grove and Lake Hazel, providing safer access for Discovery Park.
- Several downtown roadways were improved with sidewalk and asphalt this past year, including: E State, 2nd to Cathy Ln; E 4th, Washington to Janie Ln; E 5th, State to north end; E Bower, 2nd to east end; NE 5th Ave, Franklin to Bower; E Washington, 4th to Cathy Ln.
- Chinden Blvd., US 20/26 Highway is now 4-lanes wide from Linder to Locust Grove, with a pathway on the south side. This project was funded through a Sales Tax Anticipation Revenue (STAR) agreement with the developer of Orchard Park (WinCo/Library site).



MERIDIAN INTERSECTION & PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE (MIPS)

Through a collaborative effort amongst City Police and Planning Staff, ACHD, COMPASS and the West Ada School District, an evaluation of over 140 intersections in Meridian was performed this past year. The safety audit included analyzing crash data, identifying on-site hazards, evaluating street light conditions and gathering community feedback. The goal, to improve safety for all non-vehicle travelers, is documented in a report that contains several recommendations to improve safety at intersections. Implementing the recommendations of MIPS will continue until complete.



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECTS

Two important projects totaling \$17 million dollars were completed at Meridian's Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility in 2023. A new anaerobic digester was installed to increase the plant's capacity and capability to treat increased incoming flows. A new and innovative sidestream phosphorus removal process was also completed which will help the facility meet stringent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit limits. These projects ensure the facility can meet current and future growth and regulatory demands. Additionally, the design of a major plant remodel, which will repurpose some of the original infrastructure at the facility, was completed. Remodeling the aging infrastructure was selected as an economical option that reuses existing resources to meet new regulatory demands. Construction will begin in 2024.

STREETLIGHTS

The Public Works Department was able to complete several important new street lighting projects in Meridian in 2023. 62 new streetlights were added along underserved areas on Locust Grove and Chief Joseph Middle School for optimization of the corridor. These installations are prioritized around safe walking areas to school. In 2023, the City also converted 62 streetlights to Light Emitting Diode (LED) bringing the total number of LED streetlights in the City to 4,834. The City received nearly \$16,000 in Idaho Power rebates for LED conversion projects that were completed by the end of 2023. Additionally, the 2023 LED upgrades are expected to provide an ongoing savings of nearly \$1,800 in power costs and maintenance annually.



46,264

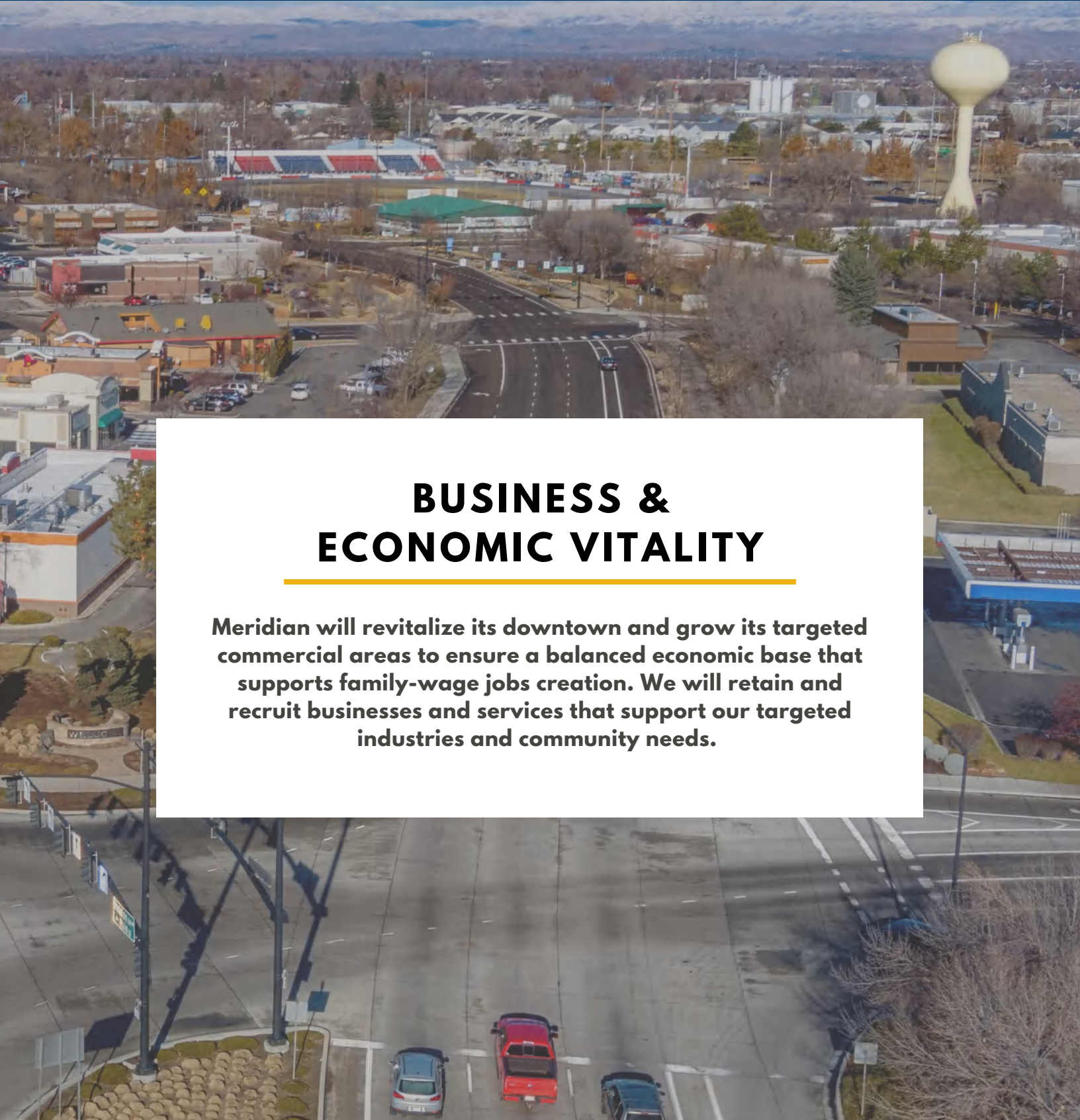
**TOTAL SEWER SERVICE
CONNECTIONS**

3.2B

**GALLONS OF
WASTEWATER TREATED**

995

**PUBLIC WORKS
INSPECTIONS COMPLETE**



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

BUSINESS AND JOB EXPANSION

Meridian has prioritized growing and retaining family-wage jobs, focusing on key sectors like information technology, professional services, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing as these crucial industries are integral to the city's economic landscape.

The city saw both new and existing businesses establish locations or expand their Meridian-based operations – especially in the entertainment and hospitality industries. Roaring Springs continued to expand their operations, the Flying Pickle opened doors to serve one of America's fastest growing sports, K1 Speed added to family fun, the Children's Museum of Idaho broke ground on an exciting new expansion, and several hoteliers made investment in Meridian with renovations and new facilities.

Other business growth included Red Aspen, Primrose School of North Meridian, home accessory manufacturer Blind Appeal, the jeweler Copper Canary, various dining establishments including Chicago Fire, Maddie's Wine and Whiskey, and Idaho's first In-N-Out Burger. These join several financial institutions expanding into the area bringing services closer to where people live.

With nearly 1,500 new home permits in 2023, over 195 new businesses opened their doors adding 939 new jobs representing a diverse range of businesses ranging from health care and technology offices to commercial tenant spaces and warehousing and distribution as seen in the acclimatization of the Amazon Distribution Facility (currently employing over 200 workers). Overall, as of the close of 2023, there were 5,664 business establishments in Meridian, employing 60,141 individuals, with a combined reported annual income of over \$3.2 billion.



TOTAL BUSINESSES



COMMERCIAL BUILDING PERMITS



NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING VALUATION



BUSINESS & ECONOMIC VITALITY

COMMERCIAL, HEALTHCARE, RETAIL AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

The City was able to work with several industrial businesses to facilitate their expansions and continued growth despite Meridian's very low office vacancy rate of less than 2.5% (as of the third quarter of 2023). Meridian continues to buck the national trend with high demand for high-end Class A office space, which continues to be developed and leased. Notable projects include Codale Electric Supply, Capital 11, a Meridian-based venture capital firm, Power Engineers, as well as commercial and retail spaces across the city including Red Feather Research, Key Bank Meridian, Med Vet Meridian and Limetree Labs.

As the City focused on facilitating the expansion of its core industries, we see continued growth in commercial, office, and industrial space, issuing a total of 266 of these permits representing over 1.1 million square feet of new construction in 2023. With Meridian's focus on becoming the healthcare epicenter of Meridian, 2023 also saw a host of new facilities come on line as well, like the Surgical Center of Treasure Valley Hospital, Ancora Health Services, Onward Physical Therapy, ETW Functional Medicine Office, dermatology and dental offices as well as retirement home care facilities.

The City also saw ongoing development on the corner of Chinden and Linder Roads, anchored by the opening of Meridian Library's new north branch library, the Orchard Park Branch and a new Biscuit & Hogs Restaurant, as additional business opportunities for retail and service businesses come on line in that area.

Furthermore, in 2023 Meridian saw major investment in hotels and hospitality with the opening of several new hotels including the extended-stay Watermark and traditional hotels like Marriott, the Hyatt Place and Holiday Inn Express Meridian. These new hotels added over 450 rooms in 2023, bringing the total number of hotel rooms in Meridian to over 1,700.

ACTIVATING DOWNTOWN

The Downtown remains a focus for the City and Meridian and is well positioned to take advantage of increased interest and the City kicked off the Hunter Lateral relocation project to better prepare the area for its long-term vision.

Downtown Meridian was also a magnet for eateries and services businesses —attracting several new establishments including Hidden Gem Events, Green Avenue Books and Publishing, Perspective Beauty Studios, the Alpine Bar and the 127 Saloon.





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

WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

One of the City's ongoing priorities is to continue to improve water quality. To accomplish this, the City has been installing water treatment facilities that filter and remove naturally occurring minerals like iron and manganese. In 2023, the City completed two new water treatment facilities. The facility at Well 17 will serve the area near Mountain View High School. The facility at Well 18 will serve the area near N Locust Grove and Ustick. These treatment sites bring the total number of water treatment sites to seven, with 5 additional facilities planned in the near future. These projects will significantly reduce brown water introduction into our system. Additionally, in 2023, the Public Works Department completed the reconstruction of one of the City's oldest wells. This rehabilitation project improved water quality and increased the lifespan of the well by an additional 20 years.



NEW LADDER TRUCK IN SERVICE

Meridian welcomed its second ladder truck in operation, Truck 35, located at Fire Station Five. Community members came together to welcome Truck 35 in December, 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.



FIRE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The Meridian Fire Department's release of the updated Community Risk Assessment Standards of Cover (CRA-SOC) signifies a proactive approach to evaluate service capabilities and performance. The comprehensive risk assessment, based on three years of data (2020-2022), aims to improve response times and achieve accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. The department's commitment to continuous improvement is evident in its pursuit of an improved ISRB rating, potentially reducing property insurance premiums for residents.



8,533

CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MFD)

2,916

FIRE INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED

154

PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS
(MFD)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

STATION 7&8 AND NW STATION

The City of Meridian opened two new Fire Stations and the Northwest Police Station in 2023. Fire Station #7 is located in South Meridian 6343 S. Recreation Ave. Meridian, ID 83642. The Meridian Fire Station #8 is located at 4232 N. Owyhee Storm Ave. Meridian, ID 83646. The opening of these new facilities will enhance services available in North and South Meridian with the addition of a new fire engine company, additional police officers, and the co-location of an Ada County Paramedics units at each station.

Meridian's newest Police Station is co-located at 4232 N. Owyhee Storm Ave. This Police Station has been constructed with efficiency in mind, allowing officers and administrative staff, to work together. This location will have limited services and hours available for the community but will be an additional resource to file police reports, meet with officers, and dispose of unwanted prescriptions via the Prescription Take Back Bins in the lobby. In the future, the Meridian Police Department aims to expand to a full range of services, which will include the ability to pay citations and complete public records requests.

Meridian Fire Stations #7 and #8 have a modern design that prioritizes safety for its occupants. The stations each feature three (3) double-deep drive-through apparatus bays which are equipped with decontamination rooms and quick-access gear to ensure firefighters are ready for any emergency. The overall building is organized to keep the operation of the apparatus bays separate from the living quarters. This is a critical feature as it helps to reduce hazardous exhaust exposure to the firefighters who reside in the station. With its emphasis on safety, these new stations are prime examples of a modern fire station that is well-equipped to serve its community.



56,047

**CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MPD)**

8,896

**PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
(MPD)**

3:56

**AVERAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES
(MPD)**

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

DRUG PREVENTION

The Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) and Drug Prevention Specialists at the Meridian Police Department implemented a new evidence-based vaping prevention training called CATCH My Breath. In collaboration with key stakeholders, MADC organized a CATCH My Breath training for the Meridian School Resource Officer (SRO) team and Drug Prevention staff. This program was also implemented at the Boys and Girls Club to roughly 50 Meridian youth.



TRAFFIC CAMERAS

In 2023, Meridian Police Department introduced a license plate reader program to bolster their efforts in solving criminal cases. The program utilizes cameras which can capture and read the license plates of the vehicles passing through. If the license plate belongs to a vehicle under criminal investigation, the system will send an alert to the department.



The information collected by the cameras is retained for only 60 days, and officers are only authorized to use the system when they are involved in an ongoing investigation looking for a specific vehicle. The new system has already proven to be effective in aiding the police department in their efforts to apprehend suspects involved in burglaries and vehicle thefts. Additionally, the license plate reader program has helped locate a vulnerable juvenile who had gone missing.

SRO PROGRAM UPDATES

Meridian Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) Program expanded its collaboration with the West Ada School District, adding six additional officers dedicated to Elementary Schools in Meridian.



Starting this school year, the SRO team, in collaboration with the Crime Prevention Unit, recognize a student from one of thirty-two (32) schools each month for the "Student Stand Out" award. This recognition is given to a student selected by SROs for being an outstanding student and making positive contributions to their school, fellow classmates, and community. This initiative encourages students to strive for excellence and helps foster a safer and more supportive learning environment.

3,543

POUNDS OF RX DRUGS
RECOVERED

605

PUBLIC EDUCATION
EVENTS
(MPD)

55

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
LIASIONS



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

SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN

The Public Works Department completed the City's first-ever Solid Waste Master Plan. This important plan outlines important work the City will complete over the next five years including evaluating ways to increase the City's diversion rate, meaning the amount of material the community keeps out of the landfill. Increasing the diversion rate is an important step in preserving landfill space and keep rates affordable well into the future.

DISCOVERY PARK PHASE TWO

The City of Meridian opened the second phase of Discovery Park, Meridian's newest regional park located in south Meridian. at 2121 E. Lake Hazel Road, between Eagle and Locust Grove Roads. This expansion of Discovery Park, which broke ground in 2022, more than doubled the size of the existing park, bringing its total size to approximately 64 acres.

The park's new amenities include an Active Area featuring six pickleball courts and two tennis courts dual-striped for pickleball; bocce ball courts; a 40-yard dash challenge; and basketball courts. The park's Teen Area has a skatepark, a sand volleyball court, hammock poles, and a shelter with Wi-Fi. Additional new attractions include a bike park and pump track; three additional softball fields (two of which will be illuminated); public art pieces and artisan-made benches; picnic shelters; a restroom/concession building; paved walking paths; more than 500 additional parking spaces; and room for a future community garden.

LAKEVIEW GOLF COURSE IMPROVEMENTS

Lakeview Golf Course continues to receive attention and enhancements, ensuring it remains a valuable recreational asset for residents. Recent improvements include a new louvered shade covering for the clubhouse's outdoor patio, adding to the comfort and appeal of the facility.

2023 also saw the completion of several major projects that improved the appearance and playability of Lakeview Golf Course. A new pressurized irrigation pump and system was installed to increase water capacity, improve water coverage, and minimize the need for daytime watering. Additionally, new concrete cart path segments were installed near tees and greens throughout the golf course.



TREES IN MERIDIAN PARKS



ACRES OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND



MILES OF MAINTAINED PATHWAYS

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

Meridian's commitment to fostering arts, culture, and preserving its history is evident through various initiatives. The City exhibited work by 236 artists in 11 different exhibitions at Meridian City Hall's Initial Point Gallery; funded two youth performing arts projects for the Huckleberry Star Theater and the Treasure Valley Children's Theater; and expanded Meridian Art Week with more classes, workshops, and events like the Community Art Party. We also partnered with Marimba Boise, the Treasure Valley Children's Theater, and Ballet Folklorico Mexico Linda to open the popular Concerts on Broadway series.

The Historic Preservation Commission completed a survey of many properties in downtown Meridian to find historic properties that may be eligible for the National Historic Registry and successfully nominated downtown Meridian's historic Tolleth House for a prestigious Orchid Award through Preservation Idaho.

The Meridian Art in Public Spaces (MAPS) program celebrated great successes with many new public art installations this year, as well. 2023 saw the completion of the Meridian Mural Series, a mural partnership program of three new murals, with the final mural installed this spring at the Meridian Pool for its 50th season by local artist collective Sector Seventeen.

Through a Meridian Arts Commission, the City also wrapped six traffic boxes with original art by West Ada School District students. Several additional new public art pieces were installed, we all: a pair of mosaic sculptures at the Fivemile Creek Trailhub by Eileen Gay; four functional benches made from recycled propane tanks at Discovery Park by artist Colin Selig; and a softball themed installation of four interactive sculptures that creatively use negative spaces to outline ball players at the new softball fields at Discovery Park by UrbanRock Design.

New creative signage was designed and installed at Season's Park at the entryway and on the shelter. The new pieces were inspired by the changing leaves and feature multi-colored translucent material that captures a rainbow of colors in the overlapping leaves.

Meridian's public art can be viewed on an interactive map at:

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/PUBLICART](https://meridiancity.org/publicart)



81

EVENT DAYS

4,475

FIELD RESERVATIONS

5

TRAFFIC BOXES WRAPPED

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

NEW PATHWAY CONNECTIONS IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY

Parks staff completed two sidewalk widening projects on Linder Road; one at Ustick and Linder, and another segment further north, from Cayuse Creek to existing pathway south of Chinden. These 10' wide detached sidewalks function as pathways to further reinforce Linder as a major north/south pedestrian connection.

Meridian's Fivemile Creek Trailhub continues to develop a strong sense of place through the recent addition of custom bicycle racks that reinforce the nature theme established by the new art piece.

To further enhance community access to pathways, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with GIS staff to develop a new public-facing map for the City website. The final product is a visually appealing, interactive map that depicts existing pathway facilities, and also highlights projects in the late stages of planning and construction that are "Coming Soon." This will be a useful tool for planning recreational routes through the city. A toggle option to view future pathways will provide pathway plan information to the development community as well. The map also features all Meridian Park facilities, with specific information about amenities offered at each.

Meridian's Pathways Master Plan and an Interactive Pathways Map can be accessed online at

[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/PATHWAYS](https://meridiandcity.org/pathways)



BEAR CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

Bear Creek Park was renovated with all-new playground equipment and was opened to the public in the Summer of 2023. The new playground, located in southeast Meridian, includes soft-fall materials, climbing features, swings, multiple slides, a zip line, and a whimsical bear themed play tunnel.



RECREATION
CLASSES & ACTIVITIES



ARTISTS HOSTED BY INITIAL
POINT GALLERY



MILES OF MAINTAINED PATHWAYS



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

NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT FUNDING

The Neighborhood Grant enables the community to apply for funding for a project that benefits Meridian. There were two projects that were approved through this program, both benefiting the greater community of Meridian. One of the projects was the Beep Beep Jeep, located at Bear Creek Park.

We dedicated this accessible yellow Jeep play item in honor of longtime Meridian resident and businessman Tim Burgess who passed away from ALS. The playground Jeep was funded through the Neighborhood Grant Program and a generous donation from the Burgess family.

The second funded project was a flag collection and disposal program, which was submitted by the Post 113. We were able to launch this program in 2023, which provides additional dedicated resources to ensure that unserviceable flags are disposed of properly and with the utmost respect for our nation's symbol.

This program allowed for the purchase of two incinerators and two collection boxes. Volunteers from Post 113 and Meridian Boy Scout Troop 1 will collect flags from the collection boxes at Fire Station One and Fire Station Five and other locations in the community and then transport them to Post 201 where each flag is then prepared for disposal before being incinerated.



MERIDIAN INNOVATION AND CHANGE ACADEMY

The Innovation Academy, which trains and empowers our employees to innovate processes in their workspace reached several key milestones this year! We trained a total of 23 employees in process improvement techniques, completed five improvements which reduced non-value-added work by over 378 hours. Additionally, an online database called the Innovation Portal was built, allowing employees to submit their ideas, communicate with staff, and track key datapoints, as they navigate with their teams for process improvements.



NEXTDOOR MEMBERS



**PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
(SEPERATE FROM MPD)**



VOLUNTEER HOURS

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.

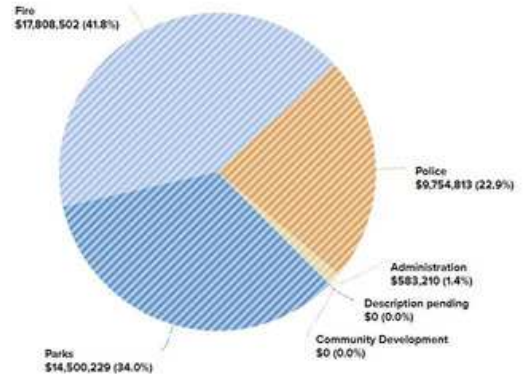
In addition, the Finance Department has a new budget software this year, which replaced the manual process, allowing the City to modernize our budgeting process. This centralized software solution increases data accuracy, saves time, and improves process efficiency. It also enables the City to send and 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.

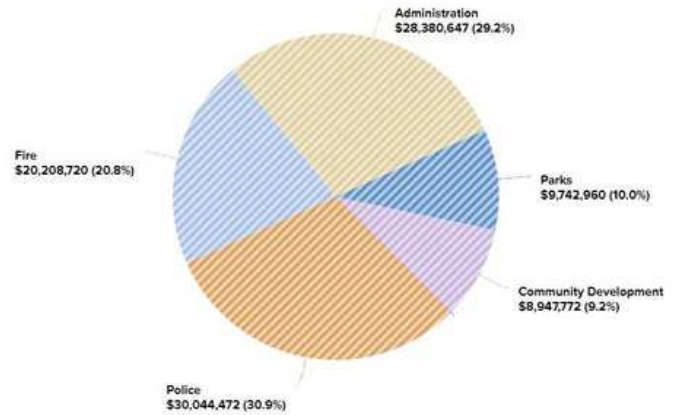
The **ENTERPRISE FUND** provides water and sewer service to Meridian residents and businesses. This fund is financed completely with fees. There are two principal types of fees: user fees, which are based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects"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

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

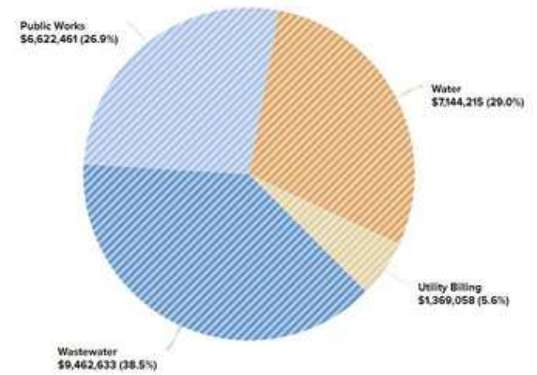
GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



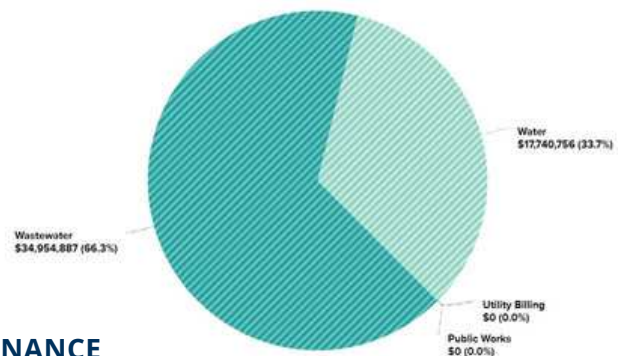
GENERAL FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



MERIDIAN ELECTED OFFICIALS (2023)



MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON



BRAD HOAGLUN
City Council President, Seat 3



JOE BORTON
City Council VP, Seat 1



LIZ STRADER
City Council, Seat 2



JOHN OVERTON
City Council, Seat 4



JESSICA PERREAULT
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



NEWLY ELECTED MERIDIAN OFFICIALS

2023 held the first election where Meridian City Council were elected by Districts. While Meridian had three City Council races, four City Council districts were decided by the November election. Two current City Councilmembers will continue to serve the community: Councilwoman Liz Strader, District 2 - Seat 2; Councilman John Overton, District 4 - Seat 4. Newly elected Councilman Doug Taylor, District 3 - Seat 3 and Councilwoman Anne Little Roberts, District 5 - Seat 5, will begin serving in 2024.



DOUG TAYLOR
DISTRICT 3 - SEAT 3



ANNE LITTLE ROBERTS
DISTRICT 5 - SEAT 5

MERIDIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT

Top Row: Tracy Basterrechea, Police Chief; David Miles, Chief of Staff; Steve Siddoway, Director of Parks and Recreation; Robert Simison, Mayor; Bruce Freckleton, Director of Community Development; Todd Lavoie, Chief Financial Officer; Kris Blume, Fire Chief.

Bottom Row: Dave Tiede, Chief Information Officer; Debbie Hoopes, Director of Human Resources; Laurelei McVey, Director of Public Works; Bill Nary, City Attorney.

ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

Meridian takes pride in being recognized for its outstanding initiatives and the positive impact it creates for residents. In 2023, the city received prestigious awards, acknowledging its commitment to innovation, safety, and community engagement.



LEADING THE WAY

The City of Meridian was recognized with ETC Institute's 2023 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.

MERIDIAN POOL SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD

The Meridian Pool received accolades from the Association of Idaho Cities in June 2023 for its innovative approach to enhancing safety. The implementation of a swimming test and wristband system proved instrumental in elevating safety standards at the pool. This recognition highlights Meridian's dedication to ensuring a secure and enjoyable experience for residents using municipal facilities.



MERIDIAN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MERIDIAN MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (MYAC) SENIOR PROM EVENT

The Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) demonstrated exceptional community spirit by organizing and volunteering at a "Senior Prom" dance at the Meridian Senior Center. This initiative, recognized with an award from the Association of Idaho Cities, showcased the positive impact of intergenerational events. By fostering connections between younger and older community members, MYAC contributed to creating a vibrant and inclusive community.



MERIDIAN MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

MAYOR'S LEGACY AWARD

Mayor Simison presented the 2023 Mayor's Legacy Award during his State of the City. The award is presented to Meridian residents or businesspersons who have contributed to the betterment of Meridian in a variety of capacities over a number of years.

Mayor Simison recognized Brian Simer and Mark Lightner for their efforts making Meridian PAL an organization that has made a difference for so many families in Meridian. "They have brought programming to our coaches, encouraged drug-free decisions, and been major partners with the City of Meridian in the development of Heroes Park," said Simison as he touted Simer's and Lightner's successes as dedicated mentors leading the organization where many Meridian kids get their start in sports programs.



MERIDIAN STARS AWARDS

Mayor Simison and City Council Members presented the 2023 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.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RECIPIENTS
AND TO NOMINATE A STAR, VISIT
MERIDIANCITY.ORG/MERIDIANSTARS



CAROL & ELDEN LEAVITT
Neighbor of the Year



HOYOON SONG
Youth of the Year



LOOSE SCREW BEER CO.
Small Business of the Year



TOM & BONNIE CARNS
Mayor's Star of the Year



PATSY GARDNER
Senior of the Year



BERKELEY BUILDING CO.
Large Business of the Year

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