



2024 IN REVIEW

BY MAYOR SIMISON

As Mayor of Meridian, I am proud to present the 2024 Annual Report, a reflection of our city's achievements, growth, and progress over the past year. This report illustrates the dedication, collaboration, and innovative spirit that define Meridian as one of the most vibrant and livable communities in the West.

In 2024, we continued to make strides across our six key focus areas. These pillars guide our efforts to ensure Meridian remains a thriving hub for families, businesses, and visitors alike. And according to our Community Satisfaction Survey, 88% of residents believe Meridian is a good or excellent place to live and raise a family.

While I am proud of our successes, I also recognize the importance of addressing areas that residents identified as top priorities to work on. Specifically roads/transportation, education, and growth.

As part of our efforts, in 2024 we advanced key infrastructure projects to meet the needs of our evolving city. This included regulatory upgrades to our Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility and the final design. Working with our transportation and community partners, the final design of the Linder Road Overpass project was completed and several road improvements were completed. We also celebrated the completion of pathways providing new opportunities for school connectivity and outdoor recreation.

Meaningful steps were taken to strengthen our quality of life. We made investments in our community spaces such as Lakeview Golf Course as well as Tully and Discovery Parks, in order to maintain spaces that bring us together.

Safety remains at the core of our values. This year, we enhanced public safety resources focused on helping to reduce emergency response times and expanded community-focused programs. We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition, a group that is performing vital work in prevention and education, a testament to the power of partnership in keeping our city safe and healthy.

Together, these accomplishments reflect the shared vision and tireless efforts of our City team and the people who call Meridian home. Thank you for being part of Meridian's journey and for your continued trust. Let's build on this momentum to ensure that Meridian remains the West's premier community 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

IMPROVED STAFF REPORTS STRENGTHEN DATA SHARING AND TRANSPARENCY

In 2024, the City of Meridian improved the format and content of staff reports to enhance the City Council's decision-making process. In collaboration with staff, the Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Council, a refined and comprehensive staff report format was developed and implemented last summer. This update ensures that decision-makers, the public, and other customers receive better information when making decisions on projects.

The new staff report enhances transparency and efficiency in the development review process by improving information sharing, streamlining, and visually enhancing the information with charts and graphs. This refined approach supports the City's commitment to equipping leadership with the tools needed to make thoughtful decisions that benefit the community.



PRIORITIZING RESPONSIBLE GROWTH IN HOUSING

The City of Meridian took meaningful steps to expand housing opportunities through key policy updates in 2024. The City's Unified Development Code (UDC) was amended to remove minimum housing size requirements in all residential zoning districts, making it easier to develop a variety of home sizes and types that meet the community's and developers' needs of our City. Manufactured homes and secondary dwelling units were also approved as viable housing options in our community, by addressing some of the definitions and requirements that previously made them more difficult to bring to market.

These additional policy and code-related changes further improve the ability of those wanting to live in Meridian to find housing.



142,830

CITY POPULATION

3.04%

CHANGE IN POPULATION

44.4%

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER



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

STREETLIGHTS

The City is working to upgrade older halogen streetlights to LED. This conversion saves money on power and maintenance over the life of the streetlight. In 2024, the City completed 895 streetlight LED conversions. The City also works each year to add new lights to areas that do not meet current lighting standards. In 2024, 74 new streetlights were installed, some with the help of the Community Development Block Grant program. These installations are prioritized around safe walking areas to schools and parks.

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Public Works Department completed the regulatorily required Lead and Copper Rule water line inventory. This process involved surveying and determining the material of all water pipes in the City including the over 47,000 private water service lines running to every house and business in Meridian. This inventory was an important step in ensuring the best water quality reaches our customers' residences.

Additionally, the Public Works Department installed two radio towers and associated equipment to read the City's water meters remotely. Once all water meters are transitioned over, this system will be able to read all 47,000+ meters with the click of a button from the water offices. This will save staff time and allow the Department to detect issues, like customer water leaks, more quickly.

SIGNIFICANT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT MILESTONES COMPLETED

The Public Works Department completed the design of several important infrastructure projects at the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility that will aid in meeting regulatory compliance while keeping up with growth pressures. The Department completed the design of the advanced tertiary filtration facility helping it meet stringent phosphorus limits.

The Department also completed the design of an innovative biosolids drier project funded through the federal ARPA grant program. This project will reduce long-term and ongoing operational costs associated with biosolids disposal by approximately \$250,000 annually. Additionally, the City completed the design of the Can-Ada Lift Station in northwest Meridian. This project will construct the necessary sewer infrastructure to support NW Meridian.

CITY POLES & LED FIXTURE UPGRADES:

- Glennfield Manor
- Sunnybrook Farms
- The Landing Subdivision
- Franklin Street & 5th Street
- East Meridian Middle School
- Linder Road - McMillan to Chinden
- Carols Subdivision

9,206

STREETLIGHTS IN THE CITY

288

STREETLIGHTS UPGRADED IN 2024



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

SEWER AND WATER EXTENSIONS AND REPLACEMENTS

The Public Works Department completed several important water and sewer line extensions and replacements throughout the City in 2024. The City installed strategic water line crossings under the future route of State Highway 16, which will allow water lines to be extended to this area in the future.

The City also completed important work in the downtown area, replacing old water and sewer lines located in the alleyways along E. Idaho Avenue. The new lines provide improved access for operations and maintenance and, most importantly, have an improved lifespan of up to 100 years.



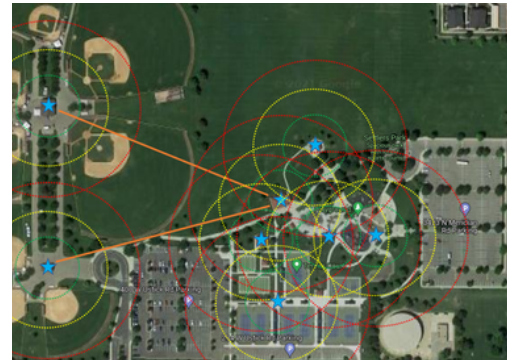
SOLID WASTE IMPROVEMENTS

The City's solid waste program rolled out two positive program changes to help improve diversion rates from the landfill and make trash and recycling services more convenient for residents. The first was a switch to year-round curbside bulky item pickup. This program allows single-family households to schedule the pickup of ten large items, for free, any time throughout the year. Additionally, residents can recycle more types of plastic, including squishy water bottles, in their curbside recycling containers.



WI-FI AT SETTLERS PARK

The Information Technology Department partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department to install Wi-Fi equipment at Settlers Park, providing a valuable new amenity for the community. This upgrade allows park visitors to stay connected while enjoying the outdoors, whether for work, leisure, or staying in touch with family and friends. The addition of free, reliable internet access enhances the park experience, ensuring visitors can enjoy both the recreational opportunities and the convenience of staying connected.



47,630

TOTAL SEWER SERVICE CONNECTIONS

3.45B

GALLONS OF WASTEWATER TREATED

998

PUBLIC WORKS INSPECTIONS COMPLETE

713

MILES OF WATER LINE

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 design for the I-84 overpass project on Linder Road is complete. Both the overpass and the associated 5-lane roadway improvements from Overland to Franklin Road will include features that enhance the area including additional pedestrian, bicycle crossings, sidewalks, bulb-outs, multi-use paths, and vertical landscape improvements as well as artwork.

Residents will begin to see the project starting in the spring of 2025, bringing connectivity and mobility to the community.



WIDENING MAJOR ROADWAYS

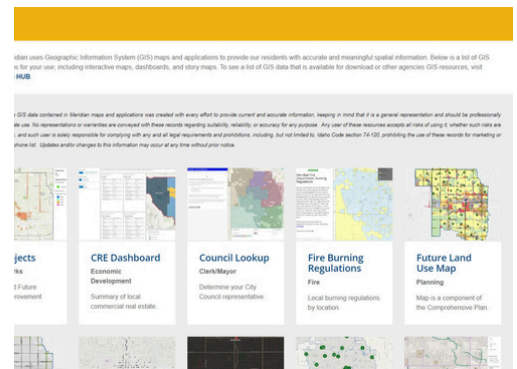
Lake Hazel Road was widened between Eagle Road and Locust Grove to include 5 lanes of vehicle traffic and improved sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roadway.

Eagle Road from Amity Road to Lake Hazel was widened from 2 to 5 lanes with improved sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the street. A new roundabout at Eagle Road and Lake Hazel will provide improved access to Discovery Park.



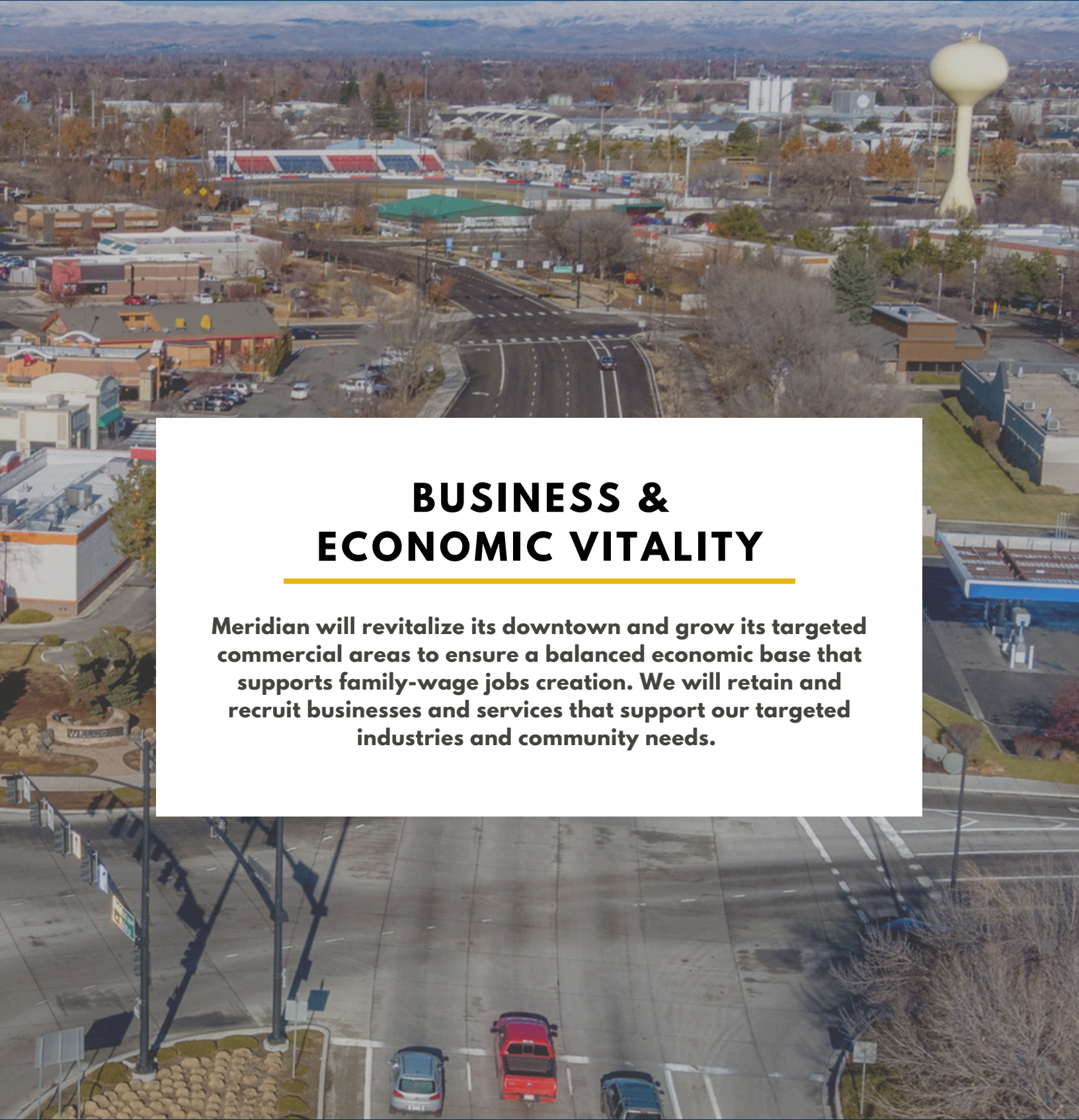
GIS MAPS AND DATA

This past year, the Information Technology Department developed the GIS Maps and Data page for the City's website. With a link on the City's homepage, as well as the Community Resources and IT Department pages, it provides quick and easy access to all of the City's publicly available web map applications. The GIS maps and related information listed on this page are shared throughout the website and provide our residents with meaningful spatial information. The GIS Maps and Data page also includes a link to the City's GIS Hub, which contains the City's open data that is downloadable and available for public use.



[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/COMMUNITY/COMMUNITY-RESOURCES/GIS-MAPS-DATA/](https://meridiancity.org/community/community-resources/gis-maps-data/)





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 continues to be the premier community to start or grow a business. Big or small, businesses are attracted to Meridian's centralized location and pro-business culture. The Ten Mile Area Development experienced significant growth in 2024, with Scheels Sporting Goods opening its first Idaho location in April. This anchor project was quickly followed by numerous restaurants and retail businesses along the Ten Mile/Franklin Corridor, including Grocery Outlet, Maverik, and Dutch Bros Coffee.

According to the Idaho Department of Labor, the City of Meridian added over 500 new businesses in 2024. As a result, employment growth in Meridian remained strong, with nearly 2,000 new jobs added to our local economy. Overall, there are over 6,000 business establishments in Meridian, employing nearly 62,000 individuals.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Despite inflationary pressures, Meridian's building permit activity stayed consistent in 2024. The city issued 1,376 Single Family Dwelling Permits, 11 Multi-Family Development Permits, and 64 New Commercial Building Permits.

Housing demand remained high, putting pressure on supply. Along with strong single-family construction, several multi-family projects were added, including Meridian's first affordable housing project in 20 years.

Although slightly lower than the previous year, the 2024 New Commercial Building Permits totaled 685,000 sq. ft. of construction, valued at over \$158 Million.

Recent commercial developments such as Eagle View Landing continued to attract a mix of office, retail, and corporate clients. Meridian saw its fair share of established local businesses expanding their footprint. Kendall Automotive Group, St. Lukes, St. Alphonsus, ESI, Intermountain Wood Products, Tesla, and Rock and Armor invested in new and/or remodeled Meridian-based facilities in 2024.



1,899

PASSPORT
APPLICATIONS
PROCESSED

212

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICES

3,419

PERMITS/LICENSES
ISSUED

336

DOCUMENTS
RECORDED





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

BRYX FIRE STATION ALERTING

The Meridian Fire Department has adopted the Bryx Fire Station Alerting System to enhance emergency response efficiency. Integrated with the Bryx Mobile App, the system offers immediate alerts and station automation, potentially reducing delays by up to 90 seconds. It uses secure, cost-effective technology and cloud storage to ensure reliability and data security. Supported by a team of engineers and first responders, the Bryx system will improve operations and the quality of services once fully operational in 2025.

ACCREDITATION

In early 2024, the Meridian Fire Department became the first in Idaho to achieve accreditation from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). This accomplishment followed years of work, including creating a three-year strategic plan, a community risk assessment, and a self-assessment document.

A peer assessment team conducted an on-site review to validate the department's operations. This accreditation reflects the department's ongoing commitment to excellence in fire service practices. It promotes higher service quality by identifying strengths and weaknesses, fostering professional growth, and encouraging continuous improvement to better serve the community.

FOUR FIREFIGHTERS PER FIRE ENGINE

The Meridian Fire Department accepted an \$8.1 million grant to enhance staffing for fire stations across the City by hiring 18 firefighters. This grant provided the funding for three years which enables four firefighters to be assigned to each fire engine. Four person staffing allows the Meridian Fire Department to respond more effectively to emergencies, improving on-scene operations, and meet the evolving needs of the community.



8,533

CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MFD)

2,916

FIRE INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED

154

PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS
(MFD)

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

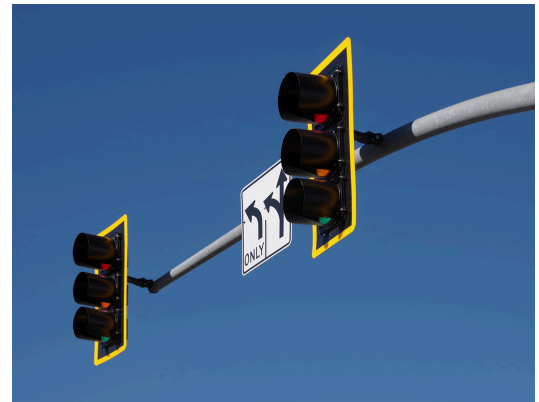
STUDENT STANDOUT PROGRAM

The Meridian Police Department established the Student Standout Program after a group of School Resource Officers (SROs) identified students who distinguished themselves through various admirable qualities. These included acts of kindness, maintaining a positive attitude, serving as role models, and contributing to the school environment and the community. The program was designed to celebrate and recognize these exceptional students. In collaboration with the Crime Prevention Unit, the SROs developed the initiative, which highlights one outstanding student from each school every month. Selected students are honored by the SRO Team with a certificate and a swag bag during a presentation attended by school staff, peers, and family members.



MERIDIAN UPGRADES OPTICOM SYSTEM

The City of Meridian upgraded technology that allows emergency vehicles to navigate intersections more safely and efficiently. This system, known as Opticom, helps reduce response times for police, fire, and medical personnel by granting them the right-of-way at traffic signals, minimizing delays, and enhancing overall public safety.



The upgraded system includes more advanced equipment at key intersections and is opening lights further ahead as the system is no longer predicated on vehicle proximity to an intersection. It's now navigated with GPS and based on the predicted route of travel and is improving reliability and expanding coverage.



56,426

**CALLS FOR SERVICE
(MPD)**

8,276

**PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
(MPD)**

3:54

**AVERAGE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES
(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

MERIDIAN COMPLETES FIRST TRAILHUB

The City of Meridian opened its first trailhead providing direct access to Meridian's pathway system. The Five Mile Creek Trailhub is located on the east side of N. Ten Mile Road between W. Ustick and W. McMillan Road. The site includes parking for access to the pathway and features new artistic signage, a gathering area with columnar basalt benches, drinking fountains, and public art that includes bicycle racks by local artist Ken McCall and mosaic sculptures by Nevada artist Eileen Gay.



"GOLDEN SPIKE" PATHWAY CONNECTION

A new pathway segment and pedestrian bridge located approximately one-third mile west of the Trailhub was opened in 2024. This project is often referred to as the 'Golden Spike' as it makes a key connection between existing pathways to the east and west. With this connection, the Fivemile Creek Pathway is now the longest dedicated pedestrian route in Meridian, running a distance of more than eight contiguous miles



LAKEVIEW CLUBHOUSE GRAND RE-OPENING

Improvements continued at Lakeview Golf Course with renovations to the clubhouse and patio. Recent improvements include the addition of a louvered shade covering the clubhouse's outdoor patio, flower boxes, and new furniture.

Inside improvements include remodeled restrooms, new carpeting, fresh paint, new furniture, and updates to the kitchen space. All of the investments are adding to the comfort and appeal of the facility.



MERIDIAN SPEEDWAY NOW RECOGNIZED AS AN HISTORIC SITE

The City of Meridian's Historic Preservation Commission nominated the Meridian Speedway for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As one of Meridian's most recognizable landmarks, this designation acknowledges that this property is of historic significance and joins seven other properties listed in the National Register — four private residences and three commercial buildings.



TREES IN MERIDIAN PARKS



ACRES OF DEVELOPED PARK LAND



MILES OF MAINTAINED PATHWAYS

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

NEW PATHWAY CREATES WALKABILITY WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

Mary McPherson Elementary School is now connected to nearby neighborhoods with a 900-foot-long, 10-foot-wide pathway. Previously, students who attended Mary McPherson needed to be bused to school because no safe route to school existed. Now, with the pathway, students can walk and ride their bikes to and from school which is easier for parents and saves on the need for busing. The pathway is a partnership between the City of Meridian, the Simplot Company, and West Ada School District.



NEW TULLY PARK PLAYGROUND FEATURES MERIDIAN'S FIRST COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

The playground in Tully Park was replaced in 2024 and included the first communication board to be located in a Meridian City park. The board serves as a tool to help non-verbal or communication-challenged individuals express their thoughts to others during their visits to the park. The new playground and communication board are located at 2500 N. Linder Road, between W. Cherry Lane and N. Locust Grove.



REFURBISHED SPACE AT MERIDIAN HOMECOURT ACTIVATED FOR CLASSES AND SPECIAL USES

A 7,200-square-foot area of space at the Meridian Homecourt has been transformed into a flexible space. The improvements included the installation of multi-purpose flooring that can be used for a variety of the classes and activities offered through the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department.



2,298

SHELTER RESERVATIONS

5,103

ACTIVITY GUIDE ENROLLMENT

867

RECREATION CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

VIBRANT & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

PLANNING FOR MERIDIAN'S FUTURE COMMUNITY CENTER

The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department is planning for future growth with the design of a new community center. The proposed community center at Settlers Park is in the early planning stages, made possible by the City's purchase of 11 acres from the West Ada School District earlier this year. This expansion will help enhance amenities and services to support Meridian's growing community.



NEW PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS

The Meridian Arts Commission (MAC) has partnered with Valley Regional Transit (VRT) and the Meridian Development Corporation (MDC) to bring new public art to Meridian at transit stop shelters. These murals celebrate a partnership to enhance public transit with vibrant public art on Meridian bus shelters, following the theme of "Getting Around Meridian."



Discovery Park has several new public art pieces including "Fanfare" by artist Steve Parker, an interactive sculpture made from repurposed brass instruments.

DISCOVERY PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

Meridian's Discovery Park now features a community garden, complete with "scarecows" named Daisy and Stella. Operating under the Meridian Co-Op Gardeners banner, the .4-acre community garden launched in the spring, allowing for the harvest of fresh produce and flowers throughout the summer and fall.



Future ideas for the garden include the addition of a pollinator garden, garden boxes accessible to those in wheelchairs or who use assistive devices, and features that can be enjoyed by those with autism or other sensory needs.

81

EVENT DAYS

4,475

FIELD RESERVATIONS

11

TRAFFIC BOXES WRAPPED

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

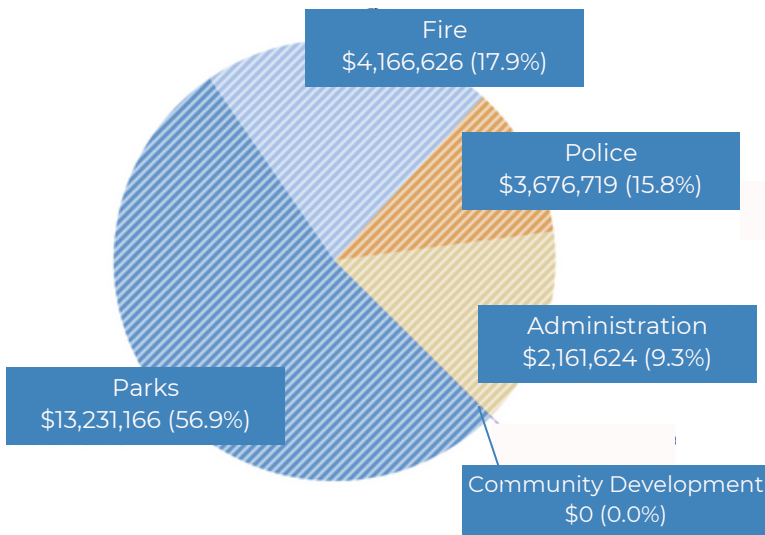
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The City of Meridian continues to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and transparency, achieving consecutive clean financial audits dating back to 2014. This achievement reflects the City's commitment to efficient financial management, safeguarding taxpayer dollars and maintaining accountability in budgeting and expenditures.

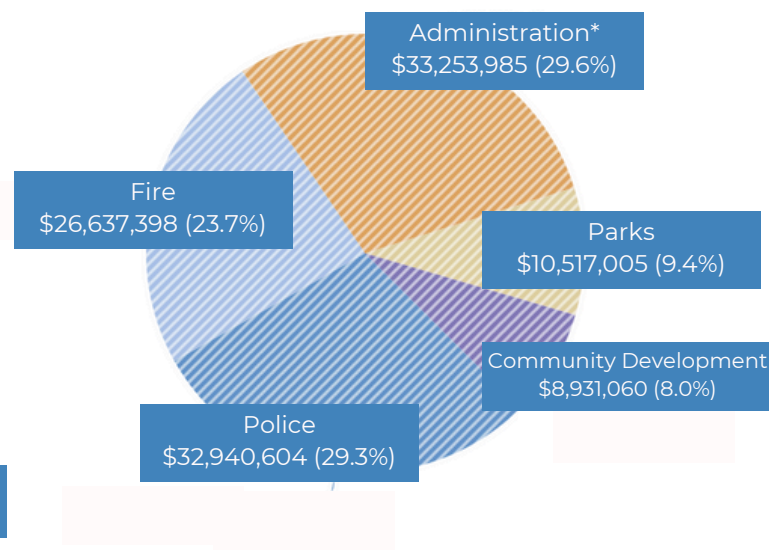
A clean audit ensures that public funds are being managed properly and that Meridian remains in strong financial standing to support critical services, infrastructure projects, and future growth. By upholding these high standards, the City reinforces public trust and its dedication to government excellence.

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

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



GENERAL FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



*The General Fund's Administration Personnel & Operating Budget includes over \$21 Million in grants and other one-time funds, including \$11,000,000 in funding for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), \$5,800,000 for the Linder Road Overpass, \$2,300,000 for downtown infrastructure improvements, \$1,669,000 for streetlight improvements, and \$870,000 for public transportation.

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.



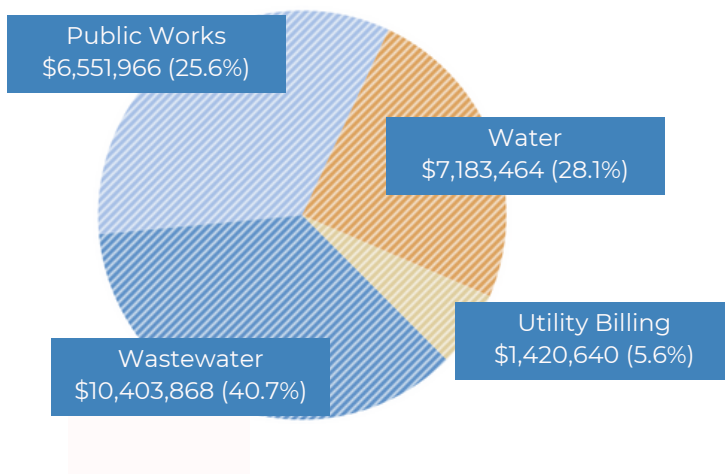
GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

ENTERPRISE FUND

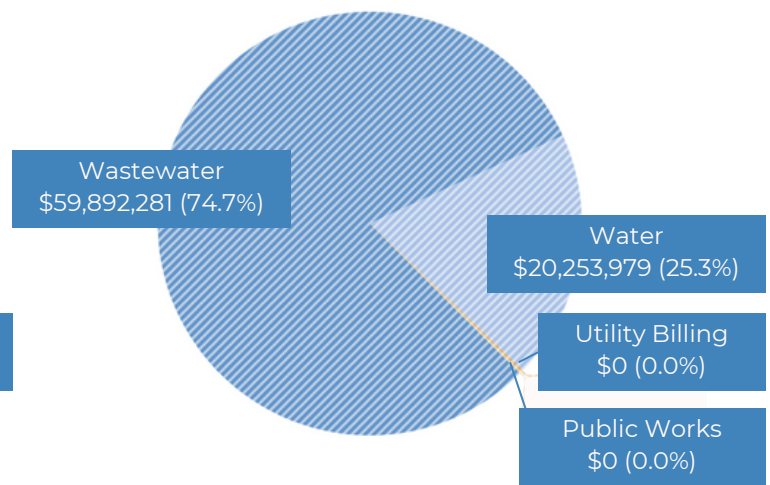
The **ENTERPRISE FUND** provides water and sewer services to Meridian residents and businesses. This fund is financed completely with fees. There are two principal types of fees: user fees, which are based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects"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

Please note: It is important to distinguish between capital investments and the operating budget within the Enterprise Fund. Capital investments are one-time expenses used for infrastructure projects such as new pipelines, treatment facilities, and system upgrades that ensure long-term reliability and efficiency. In contrast, the operating budget covers the ongoing costs of providing water and sewer services, including maintenance, personnel, and daily system operations.

ENTERPRISE FUND PERSONNEL & OPERATING BUDGETS



ENTERPRISE FUND CAPITAL BUDGETS



The URL at the bottom of this page will lead you to the Fiscal Year 2024 budgets which began October 1, 2023. 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



MERIDIAN ELECTED OFFICIALS (2024)



MAYOR ROBERT SIMISON



BRIAN WHITLOCK
City Council, District 1



LIZ STRADER
City Council VP, District 2



DOUG TAYLOR
City Council, District 3



JOHN OVERTON
City Council, District 4



ANNE LITTLE ROBERTS
City Council, District 5



LUKE CAVENER
City Council President, District 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



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

MAYOR'S LEGACY AWARD

Mayor Simison presented the 2024 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 Juli Bokenkamp for her dedication to building community through gardening. She has led efforts as the president of the Meridian Co-Op Gardeners, contributed to pollinator projects at Kleiner and Heroes Parks, and helped maintain the community garden at Kleiner Park for 12 years. Her work has also paved the way for a new community garden at Discovery Park.



ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

MERIDIAN PLAYGROUND MARKED 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Cheers to 20 Years! Meridian celebrated its first universally accessible playground — Adventure Island Playground at Settlers Park with a community gathering. While done as a community build partnership, the playground is maintained by Meridian Parks and Recreation and remains one of the parks system’s most popular play areas.



MERIDIAN ANTI-DRUG COALITION (MADC) CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The Meridian Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) celebrated 20 years of strengthening our community through substance abuse prevention. Established by former Mayor Tammy DeWeerd, the coalition has flourished over the years, growing its membership, partners, and impact in the community. West Ada School District hosted the celebration and attendees learned how the coalition was established, how the coalition and police department partner to meet prevention goals, and how future support will help keep our community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.



MAYOR’S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL HONORED FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT WITH CITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The City of Meridian’s Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) received the Garret Nancolas City Achievement Award at the 77th Association of Idaho Cities Annual Conference. This recognition honors MYAC’s #DoTheRight Community Fair, an initiative designed to promote kindness, raise awareness of mental health issues, and foster a sense of belonging. Held at a West Ada School District facility, the fair featured community engagement activities, including a blood drive, service projects, and opportunities to support local organizations like the Meridian Food Bank. This award highlights the City’s commitment to empowering youth and enhancing community well-being.



ACCOLADES & RECOGNITION

MERIDIAN PARKS AND RECREATION HONORED WITH STATEWIDE AWARDS

Meridian Park and Recreation was proud to bring home three awards from the 2024 Annual Conference of the Idaho Recreation and Parks Association (IRPA). The department won:

- Outstanding Innovative Program award for its efforts in repurposing used playground equipment to benefit underserved children in communities in Central America.
- Outstanding Park award for Meridian's recently completed Discovery Park Phase II.
- Meridian Parks and Recreation Director Steve Siddoway received the Dr. Leon Green Award acknowledging his many years of dedication to work in the parks and recreation field and to his ongoing efforts on behalf of the Idaho Recreation and Parks Association.



MERIDIAN EARNS PRESTIGIOUS TREE CITY OF THE WORLD DESIGNATION

The City of Meridian recently achieved its first ever Tree Cities of the World designation. Meridian is one of only 38 cities worldwide to earn this recognition.

Tree Cities of the World aims to promote the creation of more green spaces in urban areas by recognizing cities that do it well. Planting more trees is the quickest and easiest way to improve a city's tree canopy and invest in a brighter future.



14

NEW PUBLIC ART PIECES

148

ARTISTS HOSTED BY INITIAL POINT GALLERY

8

ART SHOWS



STAY CONNECTED

208-888-4433
33 E. BROADWAY AVE.
MERIDIAN, ID. 83642
[MERIDIANCITY.ORG/SUBSCRIBE](https://meridiancity.org/subscribe)
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[@MERIDIANIDAHO](https://twitter.com/MERIDIANIDAHO)

