

ANNUAL REPORT

2014—2015





MAYOR'S WELCOME



Mayor Tammy de Weerd

To say I'm proud to call Meridian home is an understatement. I adore this city and the people who live here. Each day I'm inspired by our residents and our business community; I enjoy connecting with all of you on social media, at city council meetings, town hall meetings, ribbon cuttings, at Coffee with the Mayor, community events and around town.

Your input is critical and this year's City Survey certainly helped us as we made plans for the future. I'm happy to report the survey, that was mailed to 514 random households, revealed a 94 percent level of confidence in the City, and Meridian rated 19 percent higher than the national average and 21 percent higher than the Northwest Region in overall quality of City services provided. The feedback we received confirmed we are on the right track but we are constantly seeking ways to improve our City.

Your voice is important and we listen. The feedback we received in the survey and other outreach plays a key role as we develop our strategic plan for the City of Meridian and our vision for this community in the next five years.

The past year was an incredible one for the City of Meridian. *Money Magazine* named us one of "America's Best Places to Live", and I agree. I look forward to connecting with you in the coming year, as we continue to plan, grow and prosper here in Meridian.

MERIDIAN CITY COUNCIL



Pictured Left to Right: President Charlie Rountree, Vice President Keith Bird, Joe Borton, Luke Cavener, Genesis Milam and David Zarembo



DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bruce Chatterton

FINANCE

Stacy Kilchenmann

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Mark Niemeyer

HUMAN RESOURCES

Patti Perkins

INFORMATION SERVICES/ CITY CLERK

Jaycee Holman

LEGAL

Bill Nary

PARKS AND RECREATION

Steve Siddoway

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jeff Lavey

PUBLIC WORKS

Tom Barry



The City's clock chime was restored, bringing back the "hometown" appeal of downtown Meridian

CITY DEPARTMENTS

In Case of Emergency	Dial 9-1-1
Meridian City Hall	(208) 888-4433
City Attorney	(208) 898-5506
City Clerk	(208) 888-4433
Community Development	(208) 884-5533
Finance/Accounting	(208) 888-4433
Fire (Non-Emergency)	(208) 888-1234
Human Resources	(208) 898-5503
Information Technology	(208) 888-4433
Mayor and City Council	(208) 489-0529
Parks and Recreation	(208) 888-3579
Police (Non-Emergency)	(208) 888-6678
Public Works	(208) 898-5500
Utility Billing	(208) 888-4439



BY THE NUMBERS

Community Profile



History: Established 1893; incorporated 1903
Land Area: 27.3 square miles
Elevation: 2,605
Climate: Semi-arid with 4 seasons
Population Estimate: 85,240
Households: 27,028
Persons per Household: 2.89
Workforce: 38,786
Unemployment: 3.3%

Median Age: 33.4
Gender Split: 48.4% male, 51.6% female
Veterans: 4,695
High School Graduate or Higher: 94.1%
Bachelors Degree or Higher: 33.9%
Median Household Income: \$65,899
Median Home Value: \$177,500
Home Ownership Rate: 83%
Privately Owned Land: 94% of Meridian
Average Commute: 22.1 minutes



City Profile

Full Time Employees: 386
Passports Processed: 2,250
Utility Accounts: 29,540
Commercial Permits: 56
Residential Permits: 1260
Donated Equipment: 220 pieces of computer equipment to area students
Volunteer Hours: 19,000





Parks

Parks: 20
Developed Parks: 240 acres
Undeveloped Parks: 141 acres
Pathways: 14.8 miles
Trees: 3,000 in urban forest system
Recreation: 5,615 Players on 578 Teams
Park Shelter Reservations: 1,556



Infrastructure

Water Lines: 496 Miles
Sewer Lines: 410 Miles
Active Wells: 19
Water Storage: 4.5 million gallons
Pumping Capacity: 69 million gallons/day
Number of Street Lights: 3,800



Public Safety

Police Officers: 93
Police Calls for Service: 54,215
Arrest Charges: 1,849
Police Response Time (Emergency):
 Average 3 minutes 46 seconds
Fire Stations: 5
Firefighters: 55
Fire Calls for Service: 5,600
Fire Chute Time
(notified to time en route): 47 seconds
Fire Response Time: Average 5 minutes 26 seconds





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We believe one of the best ways to serve our community better is by increasing connections with our citizens. This year, we've initiated more ways not only to connect with you, but also more events that bring the community together. Here are some ways we bolstered our connections:



Nextdoor

In 2014 we rolled out Nextdoor, a private social network for neighborhoods, in order to continue building a greater sense of community. With Nextdoor, Meridian residents can join private neighborhood websites to share information, including neighborhood public safety issues, community events, activities, local services and they can even put out alerts such as lost pets. The City of Meridian and Meridian Police are using Nextdoor as a way to communicate with our residents and neighbors. If you are interested in joining this private social network, visit www.nextdoor.com.

Five Mile Creek Pathway Extension

Our Parks and Recreation Department is always searching for more ways to keep neighborhoods connected by expanding the City's pathways and trails system. This year the department completed multiple projects in this arena, including the Five Mile Creek Pathway extension which runs from the west end of Bridgetower Subdivision to Linder Road. The design was funded through an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant and provides for more directional signs for pedestrians, runners, bikers and walkers.



Kleiner Park LIVE Concert Series

The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department kicked off a new community event in 2014—the Kleiner Park LIVE Outdoor Concert Series. The free, family friendly event was held on Thursday evenings throughout the month of July and into August and it proved to be a big hit. Be on the lookout for next year's schedule of concerts in the coming months. Other new events this year included the Fall Classic Disc Golf Tournament in



Kleiner Park and the Winter Lights Fun Run which preceded the start of the Winter Lights Parade. These new events were added to an already packed Parks and Recreation calendar that included many popular community events such as CableOne Movie Night, Gene Kleiner Day, the Barn Sour Fun Run, the Independence Day Celebration, the Community Block Party and Christmas in Meridian events. It's the City's way of making our community one that is full of events for the entire family—a city where you really can live, work and PLAY.



Historic Walking Tour

In an effort to celebrate and honor the community’s history, the City of Meridian debuted a self-guided historic walking tour of downtown. The tour transports you to yesteryear with information about the history of our city either on foot or on your computer. Brochures and historic signage are equipped with QR codes to give those with smart phones access to a full multimedia presentation featuring additional photos and video. The tour was put together by the Meridian Historic Preservation Commission and the Meridian Development Corporation.



Saturday Fun Bus

One way to make it easier for families to PLAY in Meridian is with the City’s new Saturday Fun Bus. Valley Regional Transit and the City of Meridian launched the Saturday shuttle service in September. The citizen survey identified public transportation as a top priority, so we are focused on creating opportunities for residents. The bus stops at popular destinations throughout the City, including entertainment and shopping venues, as well as several community parks. Be sure to visit our website for more information on the route and times.

Art Walk

The City hosted an Art Walk this year to introduce citizens to art in downtown Meridian, including two new public art pieces. One of those was the creation at the Split Corridor at Main and Ada Streets by artist C.J. Rench, entitled “Under the Sun and Dreaming”. The abstract steel work is an impressive 14-foot high by 20-foot wide and weighs 1,500 pounds. The Art Walk also included a stop at the first installation of Meridian’s Traffic Box Community Art Project at the intersection of Main and Pine streets. The first piece includes a vinyl wrap created by Meridian Middle School student Kory Ramsey. Additional outdoor art projects are planned throughout Meridian in 2015. These art wraps can be sponsored by individuals and businesses.



It Starts at Home

The Environmental Division of Meridian’s Public Works Department put together the animated video series “It Starts at Home” to educate residents about City operations and sustainability efforts including drinking water, wastewater utilities trash and recycling. As a result of this educational series, The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) selected Meridian to be a recipient of the 2015 National Environmental Achievement Award. A video from the series also won both the American Public Works Association Innovation Award and the Association of Idaho Cities Achievement Award. You can view the videos on our YouTube channel called Meridian City Hall, or our website www.meridiancity.org.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Meridian continues to rank as one of the safest cities in Idaho and we want to keep it that way. That's why Public Safety is our number one priority and part of that effort includes education. This year we introduced more programs to help educate our citizens and our employees. We also collaborated with others in the field to streamline services in order to better serve our residents. Here are some of the highlights:



MYAC Youth Safety Summit

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council celebrated ten years in 2014. Since its inception a decade ago, MYAC continues to grow—more than doubling in size in just the last two years! One event that is growing in popularity each year is MYAC's valley wide Safety Summit for high school students. In 2014 MYAC seniors organized and hosted the first summit for middle school students. More than 400 students attended the combined events, spending the day at Wahooz participating in interactive lessons including texting while driving go-karts and mini-golfing with



intoxicated-vision goggles. They also played laser tag on unfair teams to demonstrate the harmfulness of bullying. For part of the event, teens broke into school-specific groups to talk about ways to improve the quality of life for their peers within their own schools.

Alive at 25

The Meridian Police Department's Alive at 25 program continues to grow and trains more drivers than any other program across the state. The course is a free, one-time, safety training for drivers age 15 to 24. Police say that age group is at the greatest risk on the road. That's why the National Safety Council created the "Alive at 25" curriculum, which is actively used in five states. The course covers everything from the importance of seat belts, to the emotional toll accidents can have on drivers.

TIP Program

Meridian Police lead efforts to bring the TIP program to the Treasure Valley. TIP stands for Trauma Intervention Program and is about citizens helping citizens in times of crisis. TIP is a national non profit with 16 affiliates serving more than 250 cities across the nation. Each affiliate provides citizen volunteers who respond to traumatic incidents at the request of police and fire to support those who are emotionally traumatized.

Darkness to Light

A total of 115 employees within the Meridian Police Department and Mayor's Office participated in Darkness to Light training this year. The training is part of the Stewards of Children program designed to help curb child abuse within our community by raising awareness about the signs of child abuse and how to identify those signs. Meridian is one of the first cities in Idaho to start training its employees, and due to the program's success, the police department is working on necessary certifications in order to expand the training to the public.

**ALIVE AT 25
2014**

1,042 STUDENTS

47 CLASSES

8 INSTRUCTORS



Public Safety Day

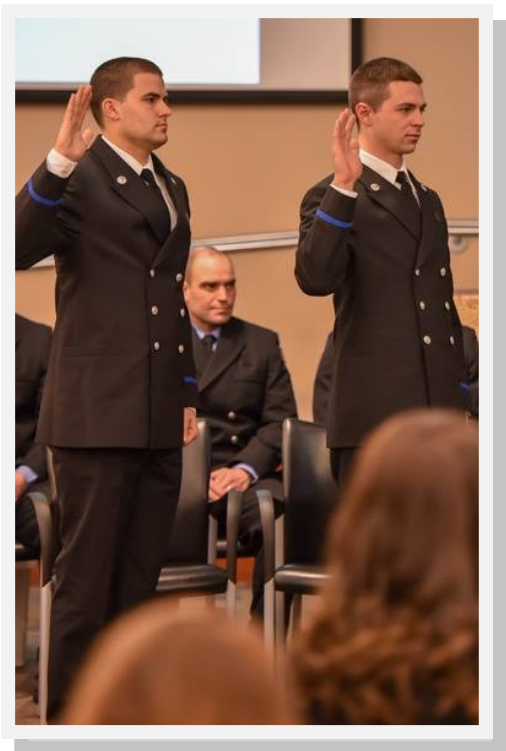
The Meridian Fire Department Prevention Division continues to raise the bar on keeping the public safe. This year's Public Safety Day set a record for highest attendance since it began, with more than 670 members of our community participating in this one day public education event. Participants were introduced to life-saving fire and police prevention messages and were instructed on helmet safety and car seat safety among other things. Additionally, our Prevention

Division saw a significant increase in the number of electric/battery backup smoke detector replacement installations performed by our Prevention Division and Firefighters. The Fire Department is committed not only to respond to emergencies, but to be proactive in keeping our community safe!



Water Quality Improvements

The Public Works Department completed several water treatment pilot studies and were able to determine the appropriate treatment solution required to improve overall water quality. In addition to this, the department completed a report that documents and analyzes 16 years of water level measurement. This report is the first of its kind in the Treasure Valley and will be an invaluable tool for managing our water resource now and in the future.



Collaborative Efforts

The Meridian Fire Department is keeping the community safe while keeping an eye on the bottom line. The first ever **Joint Municipal Firefighter Testing and Academy** saved the department money in its first year and unified Fire Department operations. In a joint effort with the Boise and Eagle Fire Departments, more than 800 applicants tested for open positions. The joint testing process alone saved Meridian approximately \$5,000 and the four-month joint recruit academy saved the City an additional \$50,000.

The Meridian Fire Department Training Division played a lead part in developing and coordinating the first annual **Treasure Valley Fire Department Company Officers Development** program. Participants in the program came from 6 different agencies across the Treasure Valley and received more than 144 hours of comprehensive leadership training that included, among other topics, unified command training; effectively supervising employees; and public relations training. This joint training, and its continued success, is crucial in providing consistent fire services across the Treasure Valley.

Another collaborative effort is also paying off for the Meridian Fire Department. In its second year, the historic **EMS Joint Powers** agreement with other emergency responders and fire districts in the area has resulted in a decrease in duplication of services, streamlined processes and financial savings. For Meridian, savings amounted to approximately \$35,000 over the last year.



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Meridian is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. We also pride ourselves on being one of the most “intelligent” cities when it comes to growth. Here are some ways we prepared for our future growth in 2014:

Meridian Road Interchange Rebuild

This year marked the ground breaking of the Meridian Road Interchange rebuild, which is now well on its way to completion. As the gateway to our community and downtown, this is an important project for our city and the entire Treasure Valley. The rebuild will reduce congestion, enhance safety and make way for a fourth lane on I-84. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

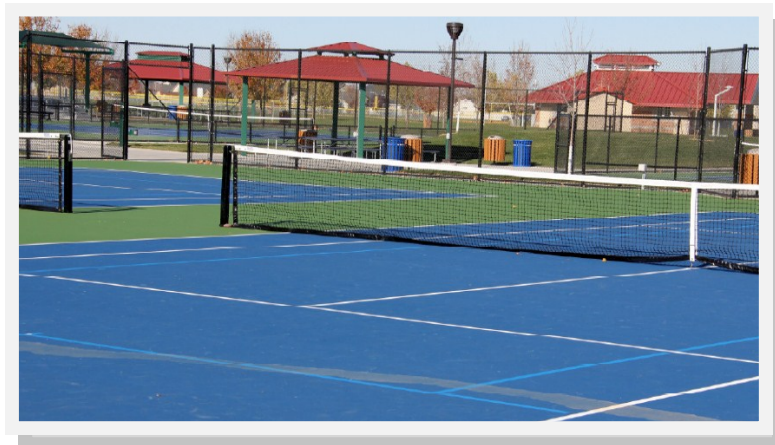
Economic Development

The Community Development Department worked with the Mayor’s Office in 2014 to bring together stakeholders for Meridian’s economic future. The goal was to identify what kind of community we desire in the future and who our existing and future employers will be. Working with the Chamber of Commerce, the Meridian Development Corporation, and many individual business owners, we set “targets” for industries we want to attract. This effort has resulted in an unprecedented level of collaboration with our business community. These partnerships are essential as we work to implement several key projects, including downtown conference space, performing arts venues, and an innovation/entrepreneurial center in the heart of Downtown Meridian. Other catalyst projects were centered on our area’s rich agriculture industry and history that positions Meridian as a hub for visitors to explore the region’s Ag-heritage and Agri-Tourism amenities. Future plans all include targeting family waged jobs closer to where the workforce lives.



Park Improvements

Settlers Park received several improvements this year, including the completion of the park’s tennis court complex. It offers six full sized tennis courts, a set of three smaller multi-use courts to accommodate young tennis players ages 10 and under, as well as pickle-ball for all ages. A new championship court is outfitted with larger run-out areas, higher fences, and bleachers for spectators. Other additions to Settlers Park included a new picnic shelter and 36 additional parking spaces.



At Kleiner Park, more trees were added to the arboretum, the drainage system was improved, the department continued goose management efforts, and charcoal grills were added to the two largest picnic shelters. And finally, utilizing a Community Development Block Grant (federal HUD money available to cities), the Parks and Recreation Department was able to pay for improvements to 8th Street Park which included the addition of a restroom, playground and picnic shelter. The grant also covered the cost for a new restroom in Centennial Park.



Our **Public Works Department** has been hard at work this year, building infrastructure to support the city for years to come.

New Wastewater Administration Building

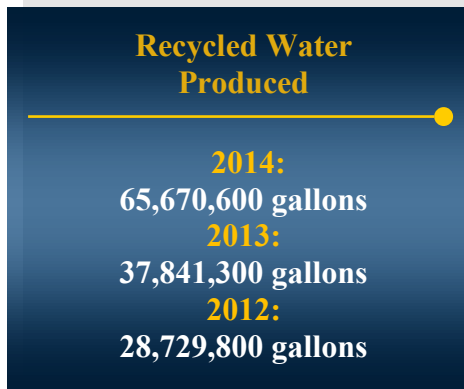
Due to increased demand in recent years, the Wastewater Division now has a new administration building and several existing buildings received greatly needed updates. The expansion will accommodate future growth and additional testing requirements by the EPA. An interpretive center was added inside the new administration building.

It is a great place for students, ratepayers, and the public to learn more about the process and the importance of wastewater treatment efforts.



RV Dump

Located next to the Wastewater Administration building, you'll also find a new, larger RV dump that was built to accommodate heavy traffic and usage. It was relocated to a more convenient location at the main entrance of the Wastewater Treatment plant near the corner of Ten Mile and Ustick roads. The new area features a wide turning radius to make it convenient for residents to dump their RV holding tanks. The City believes that offering an easy convenient place for residents to dump their RV tanks is important because it keeps folks from dumping this waste in inappropriate locations such as storm drains. This addition ensures the RV dump waste is treated properly at the City's treatment facility.



Recycled Water Program

The City of Meridian's system that produces and distributes recycled water continues to add to the City's water supply. Recycled water is a highly treated water resource generated at the City's wastewater Resource Recovery Facility that meets standards for reuse established by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Recycled water is a valuable resource most commonly used for non-potable (not for drinking) purposes such as agricultural landscape, car washes, toilet flushing and public park irrigation.

Ground Reservoir

A two million gallon water reservoir and booster station was constructed last year to provide needed emergency water supplies. The reservoir distributes water when required under emergency fire flow and peak daily usage demands. The storage facility provides for enhanced public safety and water supply needs. We are pleased to report that this project has received high praise from neighbors for its sensitive design and project execution.





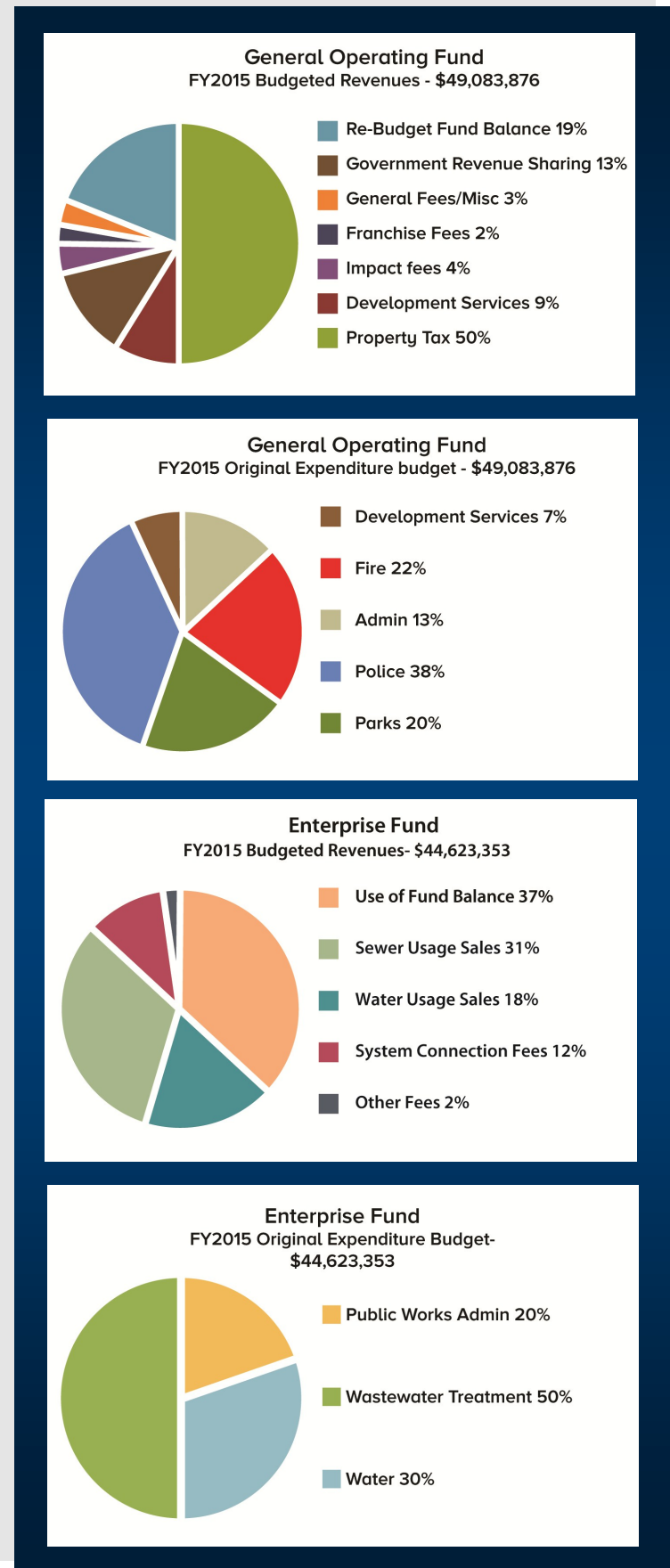
FINANCING MERIDIAN

The City of Meridian takes its fiduciary responsibilities seriously. The City has experience significant changes over the past 15 years, challenging us to use taxpayer dollars wisely in order to meet increased service levels. Our financial mission is to obtain community goals within a framework that is not only fiscally sustainable now, but also in the future when Meridian reaches full maturity. We want to be able to offer new services, maintain the assets we have, and be flexible enough to take advantage of new opportunities. This requires a conservative approach to budgeting revenues, long range financial planning and economic forecasting, saving for projects, and collaboration between all of the City's departments.

The City has two major fund types. The **General Operating Fund**, derives 50% of its income from property tax and pays for the basic City services: Community Planning and Development, Parks and Recreation, Fire and Police, and Administration.

These graphs are the City's original fiscal year 2015 budgeted expenses and revenues. The expenditures are a combination of personnel, operating, and capital expense. Many capital projects cannot be completed within the year they are budgeted. This means that they must be "re-budgeted" in subsequent years until they are completed. This amount shows up on the revenue side as "use of fund balance" and on the expense side as carry forward, or re-appropriation.

The **Enterprise Fund** is a business fund that provides water and sewer service to City of Meridian residents and businesses. Similar to a business, this fund is financed completely with user fees. There are two principal types of fees; user fees, which are charged based on each customer's system usage, and connection fees, which are paid when a new structure "connects" to the utility system. The Enterprise Fund completes very large infrastructure projects with periods of construction that span several years.





AWARDS

MONEY MAGAZINE

Meridian is one of “America’s Best Places to Live”

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

NACWA National Environmental Achievement
American Public Works Association Innovation
Association of Idaho Cities Achievement Award



**TREE CITY USA
AWARD**
12 Years as a Tree City

**AIC ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**
Park Ambassador
Program

ELECTED WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE

Given to Mayor Tammy de Weerd

OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN PHILATHROPY

Given to the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council



Meridian was Idaho’s only city recognized in Money Magazine’s Top 50 “Best Places to Live”

COMMUNITY AWARDS

ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Elroy Huff, City Arborist * Macy Miller, Tiny
Home Builder * Ron Kern, Volunteer

POLLUTION PREVENTION

McDonald’s * Steve’s Café * Chick-Fil-A

2014 LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gene Kleiner and the Kleiner Park Trust members
(Eldon Gray, Mike Huter, Mike Kleiner)

NEIGHBORHOOD STAR AWARDS

Jay & Roxanne Corsi * Claudia Sanders * Edee
White & Carol Standley * Norma Gale * Randy
Hill * Danielle Stem * Dennis Hoffman * Kendall
Ford * Rachael Perry * Stan & Suzi Young

COMING SOON

We are working on many new exciting things as we kick off 2015. Here are some highlights:

- City of Meridian Website Update
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- Meridian Interchange Art
- Police Training Center
- Meridian’s First Innovation Center
- Meridian Senior Advisory Board
- Boys and Girls Club Expansion
- Dog Park



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Thank you to all who volunteer their time to serve our City!

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Glenwood (Woody) Garvey * Blaine Johnston * Frank Thomason * Tom Hammond * Rich Nesbit * Joely Walters

IMPACT FEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

David Fulkerson * Gene Strate * Brad Pfannmuller * Matthew Adams * Treg Bernt * Spencer Martin
* Seldon S. "Butch" Weedon

MERIDIAN ARTS COMMISSION

Michelle Glaze * Mary Jensen * Dwight Williams * Brian Schreiner * Leslie Mauldin * Stephanie Barnes
* Cheyenne Quilter

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Phillip Liddell * Treg Bernt * John Nesmith * Creg Steele * Sharon Borton * Tiffany Coleman * Matthew Stoll
* Kent Goldthorpe * William Fitzgerald

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Rhonda McCarvel * Joe Marshall * Steven Yearsley * Scott Freeman * Patrick Oliver

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

J. Scott Walters * Robert Corrie * Cheryl Caldwell * Steven Cory * Nancy Mann * Karie Glen * Mollie Mangerich
* Andrea Pogue * Ashlyn Miller-Burgess Morlock

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

David Ballard * Jo Ann Bujarski * Jack McGee * Bradley Pipal * Stephen Lewis * Tracy Hopkins * Pat Morandi
* Darrel McRoberts * Ryan Lancaster

To apply to sit on a commission or committee, contact the City Clerk's office at 888-4433.

MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (MYAC) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Cady Snell * Mackenzie Lawrence * Jessica Franson * Marie Hardwick * Melissa Stevens * Hannah Chambers
* Sam Lyon * Brianna Siddoway * Jason Fischer

MAYOR'S ANTI DRUG COALITION (MADC) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Bethany Gadzinski * Cady Snell * Fred Kesler * Jan Gardner * Larry Lim * Monte Stiles * Nichole Herold

These organizations are open membership. To get involved contact the Mayor's office at 489-0529.



We have a team of **VOLUNTEERS** serving our city, in the parks, such as our Park Patrol volunteers, and at Meridian City Hall. We are grateful for their service. One example of their service is our City Hall Information Desk volunteers. Now in its second year, these volunteers are instrumental in helping our departments. This year alone our volunteers assisted over 7,500 residents here at City Hall. Volunteers typically give two to four hours per week to the City.



CONNECT WITH THE CITY



SOCIAL MEDIA

You'll find Meridian City Hall on Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn and @MeridianIdaho on Twitter.



NEXTDOOR

Connect with your neighborhood and with us.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Join us at these quarterly events!

CITY SPEAKER

Invite someone from the City to speak to your homeowners, business, club, church or school group.

TOWN HALLS, CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

See municipal government in process. We also live stream these events on our website.

NEWSLETTER

Make sure you have subscribed to our bi-weekly newsletter by visiting our website.

THIS WEEK IN MERIDIAN

Check out our weekly updates on the Meridian City Hall YouTube page.

CITY OF MERIDIAN WEBSITE

The City of Meridian's website is your one stop shop for all updates, contacts, calendar events, and City news.



www.meridiancity.org

A FOCUSED VISION

VISION

Meridian, Idaho is a vibrant community whose vision is to be the premier city to live, work and raise a family.

MISSION

The City of Meridian's mission for 2025 is to continue to be a safe, attractive, and inviting community that is full of diverse activities. Meridian delivers quality service, planning, and fiscal responsibility with open spaces, strong partnerships, and various educational opportunities. Culture, unique business, venture, and an abundant choice of jobs make Meridian not just a destination, but a lifestyle.

C.A.R.E. VALUES

We provide our best for the community we serve. We will provide quality service to our customers and positive development of our staff that promotes and expects accountability, respect and excellence.

CUSTOMER SERVICE * ACCOUNTABILITY * RESPECT * EXCELLENCE



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BUILT FOR BUSINESS

DESIGNED FOR LIVING