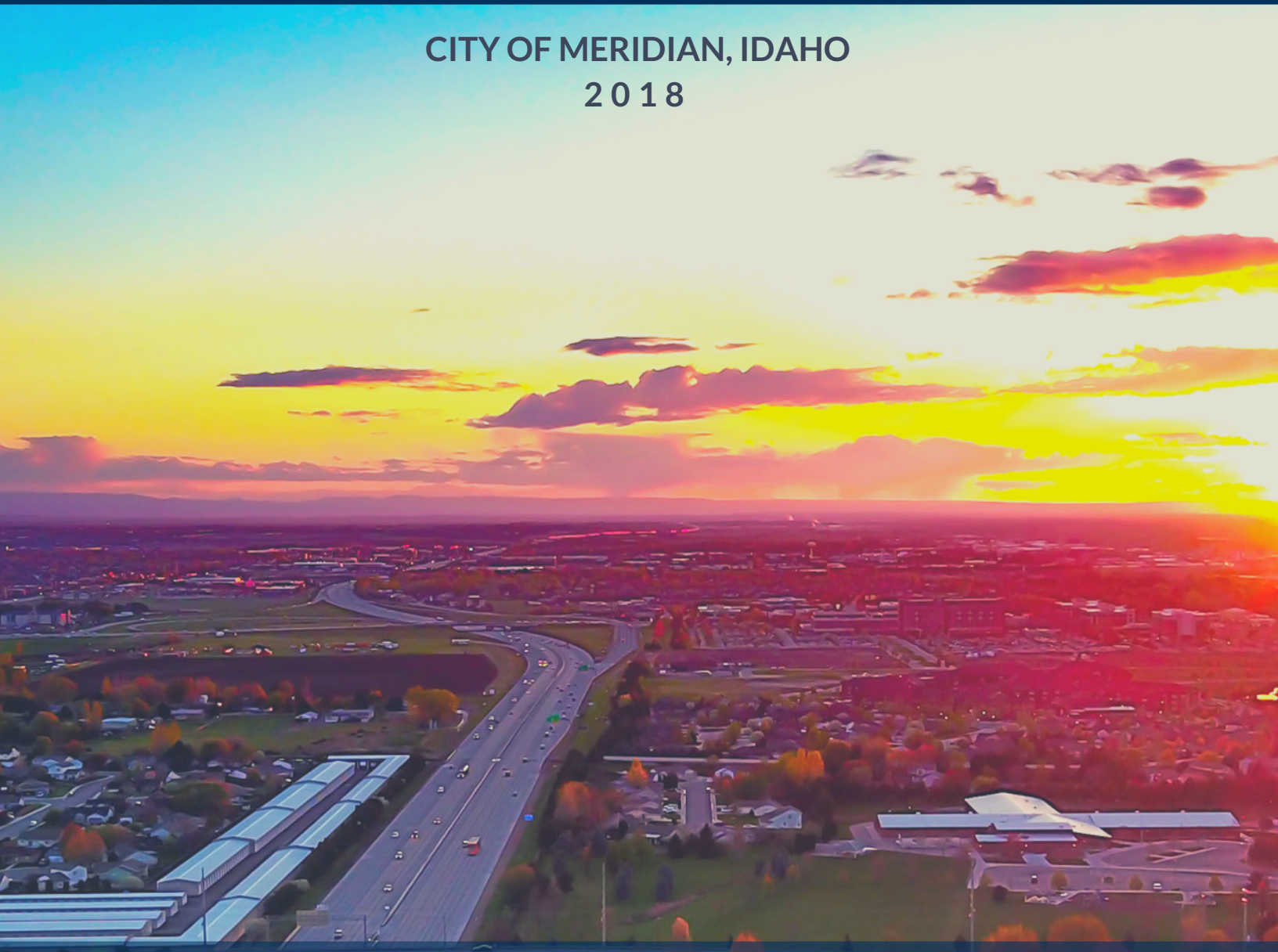


# ANNUAL REPORT



CITY OF MERIDIAN, IDAHO  
2018

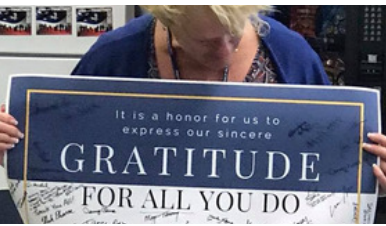


**MAYOR'S MESSAGE  
CITY BUDGET**

**BY THE NUMBERS  
YEAR IN REVIEW**

**LEADERSHIP  
ACCOLADES**

**ONLINE AT [MERIDIANCITY.ORG/2018](https://www.meridiancity.org/2018)**



## #MYMERIDIAN 2018 MEMORIES

To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone  
Or visit: [meridancity.org/2018](http://meridancity.org/2018)

City Contact: 208-888-4433 | [meridancity.org](http://meridancity.org) | @MeridianIdaho



# THE GREATEST HOME

By Mayor Tammy



This year will be my 16th year as Mayor of Meridian, and I am honored to serve this community – the “Greatest Home”, not just for residents, but for businesses as well. We have a new online annual report at [meridiancity.org/2018](http://meridiancity.org/2018) that provides the opportunity to highlight even more significant events of the past year and you can easily view it on your desktop or mobile device.

As we reflect on 2018, there is much to celebrate. Some top events include the opening of The Hill, the progress at Ten Mile Crossing, the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan, the welcoming of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine – Idaho’s first medical school, as well as other projects that have continued to make our community an even greater place to call home.

As we look ahead to 2019, we will see some big changes in our downtown with the redevelopment of old city hall. There are several other projects on the horizon such as the opening of the first phase of our third regional park – Discovery Park, the expansion work at our Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (the City’s treatment plant), the groundbreaking of the future Fire Station No. 6 in South Meridian off Overland Road and more.

Meridian remains one of the safest cities in Idaho and we really are the “Greatest Home”. Our community leaders have been working hard at this for several generations. We owe much to their vision and now we have the responsibility to continue to move Meridian forward. Thank you for allowing me to serve you!



The Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine named the school's cafe in honor of Mayor Tammy



# STRATEGIC GROWTH

Good growth fuels a city. Meridian will promote growth that enhances the vision for the city, is family focused, properly planned, financially viable and diverse.

To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone!

Or visit: [meridiancity.org/2018](https://meridiancity.org/2018)



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Public Works

**3.4 billion**  
Gallons of water pumped



**584**  
Miles of water line

**4**  
Water Treatment Facilities

**26**  
Well Facilities

**471**  
Miles of sewer line

**35,673**  
Service connections

**5,567**  
Fire hydrants

**2.7 billion**  
Gallons of wastewater treated

**15,790**  
Lab tests completed

**125**  
Miles of sewer cleaned

**1,694**  
LED streetlights

**7,131**  
Streetlights  
(581 added in 2018)

### COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The Planning Department began the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan in 2018. The plan is a guiding document for growth and development. The multi-phased process includes public input on vision and values of the community, an extensive audit of the current plan, and numerous focus group meetings around housing, transportation, economic development, and other areas. The plan will help define future land-use designations, and ultimately produces a road map for the future of our community. Stay tuned for more ways to get involved in 2019. Follow the progress at [meridiancity.org/complan](http://meridiancity.org/complan).

### MORE SERVICES IN HOUSE

The City now has greater control over the quality and timely delivery of development services. In 2018, Community Development began providing building, mechanical and electrical plan review and inspection services in house, which have traditionally been contracted by the City to third party providers. This model creates a more seamless and efficient process - ensuring development applications are reviewed quickly and in accordance with building standards. The transition required a lot of work for the department including hiring new staff, equipping them with useful technology and fleet vehicles, implementing new software, and building space in City Hall to house them. This was all done while maintaining record high application volumes and service demands.

### WASTEWATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

2018 marked one of the busiest years for our Public Works Team as they managed 50 projects with a capital value of over \$70 million. Improvements at the Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) will allow the City to meet the needs of the growing community as well as a new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit - the first new permit for wastewater since 1999. It includes a significant number of new regulations and testing requirements - increasing time and the investment to comply with regulations. For instance, we now produce four times the number of samples, equating to over a thousand samples per week! Thanks to staff foresight, we have been preparing and saving for this day and are working diligently to meet new federal requirements.

### WELLS, TREATMENT FACILITIES AND OTHER ADDITIONS

Other notable public works projects completed in 2018 include the Bear Creek Water Treatment Facility (Well 22) designed to deliver the highest quality of water to area residents. Well 22 had been non-operable for years prior to this project. This is the fourth treatment facility completed in Meridian. Crews also completed the construction of Well 32 in South Meridian, serviced water and sewer trunk lines east of Meridian Road and replaced the water main, sewer main and added streetlights as part of the Ada County Highway District's Pine Ave. project.



# ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

Meridian will recruit family-wage jobs and promote the growth of existing organizations. Jobs make a city vibrant and Meridian will continue to be a destination for businesses – a place where residents can live, work and raise a family.

To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone!

Or visit: [meridiancity.org/2018](http://meridiancity.org/2018)



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Economic

**\$2,137**

Increase in average wage since 2016



**\$39,878**

Average wage



**46,215**

Total Jobs

**2,203**

New jobs since 2017

**116**

New commercial buildings

\$138,897,825 value

**2.7%**

Unemployment



**1,237**

New residential multi-family

\$125,581,841 value

**1,840**

New residential single family

\$455,930,080 value

## OLD CITY HALL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Community Development Department spearheaded the request for proposals process to redevelop the old Meridian City Hall site. The Meridian City Council voted to move forward with a proposal to redevelop the property. The plan is to demolish the old city hall and two other buildings on the block to make room for a new development that includes two four-story buildings with residential units, as well as retail space. It will be built in the square block on Idaho Avenue between Meridian Road and Main Street and on Main from Idaho to Broadway. The four-story buildings are expected to be complete by November 2020.



## OPPORTUNITY ZONES IN MERIDIAN

In 2018 the City of Meridian learned the federal government had called out opportunity zones in the center of the community. The Opportunity Zones incentive is a new community investment tool established by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income census tracts in urban and rural communities nationwide. Opportunity Zones provide a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into dedicated Opportunity Funds. These dedicated investments can either defer or exclude capital gains. The City of Meridian was awarded zones that include downtown Meridian, the industrial corridor off the railway and the medical education corridor - areas ripe for investment! We'll see what this new incentive tool brings!

## IDAHO COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE OPENS

The Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM) opened its doors in time for the fall semester in 2018. The first medical school in Idaho is a huge addition to the state and our community - providing education opportunities to local students that weren't available before. ICOM was the first Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI) awarded in Meridian. The state established the TRI for companies that create more than 50 new jobs and pay equal or greater than the average county wage (current average Ada County wage is approximately \$46,000). ICOM created 90+ jobs with the average wage of \$88,300.

## IDAHO COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE OPENS (CONTINUED)

The Idaho Department of Commerce awarded the school \$3.9 million dollars and an additional \$200,000 came from the City of Meridian. Both awards have been dedicated to scholarship funds for ICOM students. In addition to creating high paying jobs, the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (pictured right) will address the shortage of physicians in Idaho.

## NEW EVENT SPACE IN MERIDIAN

The Wahooz expansion of the new Galaxy Event Center brought a much needed event and conference space to our community! The facility (pictured right) can seat up to 600 people and can be divided into smaller rooms for meetings and receptions. Construction wrapped up and the center began hosting events in November 2018.

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS IN MERIDIAN

We saw more buildings take shape at Ten Mile Crossing (located off I-84 along Ten Mile Road). Paylocity moved into the company's new space that houses 200 existing employees with plans to expand their team by more than 200. Paylocity is on the third, fourth and fifth floor of the completed high rise and Horrocks Engineers is housed on the first and second floors with some room for a gym. Other tenants at Ten Mile include AmeriBen, Epic Shine Carwash and Primary Health and soon Brighton Corporation's headquarters, another high rise in that commercial space. The entire future development will include retail shops, restaurants, other commercial services, apartments, and interconnected pathways.

Speaking of Brighton, over at The Village at Meridian, the company plans to add the first residential element at The Village with a goal to open summer 2020. It will be a 166-unit active adult living complex for residents aged 55 and older and will be located behind the Boise Co-op.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS COMING SOON

The Community Development Department has assisted with the development of numerous other noteworthy projects including the Costco project at Chinden and Ten Mile. This development, as well as other ones proposed for the area, has helped accelerate the Idaho Transportation Department's plans to widen Chinden - a project that will now begin in 2019.

Also ahead for Meridian: Vertical View Climbing Gym near Overland and Locust Grove in fall of 2019 and Albertson's Marketplace at Eagle and Fairview. You'll soon see a new office park developed off I-84 and Eagle Road. The 52-acre Eagle View Plaza will house Idaho Central Credit Union's headquarters (pictured right).







# RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

Successful government is service driven, approachable and responsive. Meridian will embody these qualities by improving efficiency, enhancing transparency, utilizing technology and investing in our employees.

To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone!

Or visit: [meridiancity.org/2018](https://meridiancity.org/2018)



# BY THE NUMBERS

## City Hall

**22,303**

Phone calls to  
main City line  
(208-888-4433)



**8,084**

Public Records  
Requests  
(Includes  
Police Dept)

**135**

Development  
application  
hearings  
noticed

**2,263**

Passport  
applications  
processed



**592**

Permits/Licenses  
issued



**185**

Public meetings  
noticed



**6,927**

Mailed  
notice of  
hearings

**381**

Documents  
recorded



### MORE PUBLIC ACCESS ONLINE

The City Clerk's Office completed many projects in 2018 that allow the public to more easily access documents and information on the City's website. This includes public records and public hearing notices online as well as the ability to sign-up to testify at public hearings online. And if you're interested in knowing when the public process begins for a development, you can sign up on the City's website to receive notifications regarding that process. Also all applications for permits and licenses are available online and the Clerk's Office is working to be able to accept all of those applications via the website in the coming year. These changes have greatly reduced the number of trips to the Clerk's Office for citizens as well as phone calls.

### BUILDING PLANS CAN BE SUBMITTED ONLINE

New technology implemented in 2018 makes it possible for citizens to remotely submit applications online rather than having to hand-deliver hard copies of building plans. This new technology also gives the inspection team access to these plans while conducting inspections in the field. The online plan submittal streamlines the review and inspection process, ultimately allowing the Community Development Department to deliver superior customer service, while also reducing dependence on paper and the need for extra vehicle trips.

### ONLINE PROJECT MAP

Curious what developments are happening in your area? There's a MAP for that! Citizens can now access a new "Active Hearing Level Application Map", a "Current Zoning Map" and a "Future Land Use Map". These interactive maps have information about developments, roads, schools, parks, acreage, and other helpful information. Check out the project maps, on the digital annual report or online at [meridiacity.org](http://meridiacity.org). You'll also find an interactive map highlighting Public Works construction projects.



### MYAC LEGISLATION IS SUCCESSFUL

Among the new state laws that went into effect in July 2018, is a piece of legislation spearheaded by the Meridian Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC). Teens involved with MYAC research ideas each year to bring forward to present to legislators. This year, as they learned more about organ donation, the parameters surrounding who could be a donor and how that affects teens their age, they decided they wanted to do more. They successfully presented the legislation to committees and effected change. Before, anyone under the age of 18 could not consent to being an organ donor the way others could when they receive a drivers permit and license. Now, as a result of MYAC's legislation, Idahoans ages 15-17 can receive the organ donor stamp/designation on their license or permit, with the consent of a parent or guardian.

### MERIDIAN COURTHOUSE ISSUE RESOLVED

2018 marked the resolution of an eight year lawsuit with the 4th District Court and Ada County based upon a 1994 Court Order to provide a court facility within the City of Meridian. The City, in partnership with the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Association of Counties, the Idaho Supreme Court, and the State Legislature helped craft a legislative fix to the magistrate courthouse funding issue. A stable funding source was identified and assures the court system will be operated by the counties - maintaining a consistent structure throughout the state. It is a victory for everyone.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE

City departments continue to focus on goals and objectives to improve the effectiveness of services we offer and citizen satisfaction with our community. In fact, we have a Strategic Plan that guides us and this year departments completed seven plan objectives bringing us nearly half way (49%) to the completion of the five-year plan. For example, the Parks and Recreation Department reviewed its family centered recreation activities and modified some of the opportunities for citizens. We have implemented plans to improve teen and tween programs, outdoor recreation, and social activities (i.e. daddy/daughter date night, camping/backpacking trips, adaptive cycling). These plans and many others take dedication, planning and long-term focus to accomplish.

### CITY EMPLOYEE MEETING

For the first time the City help an all-employee meeting and workshop in order to learn new ways to better serve citizens. The meeting included discussions on growth, planning, strategic focus, employee survey results,



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Community



**106,410**  
Population  
(per COMPASS)

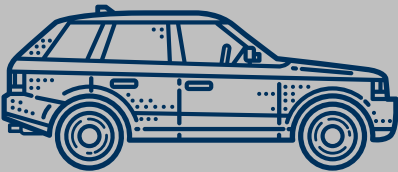
**31%**

Population change  
2010-2017  
(census)



**22.2**

Minutes for  
average  
commute



**221,300**

Meridian  
home value

**76.2%**

Home-ownership  
rate

**\$64,375**

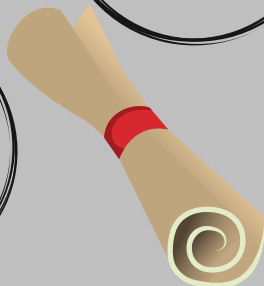
Meridian  
household  
income



**77.9%**  
Bachelors degree  
or higher

**95.6%**

High School  
graduate  
or higher



## CITY EMPLOYEE MEETING

### (CONTINUED)

employee recognition as well as self-improvement tips from local motivational and educational speakers. The meeting provided an opportunity to deliver important messages to all city employees at one time, instead of reaching out to all departments at multiple times.

## FIRST TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

Nearly 200 citizens called in to be part of the City's first-ever Telephone Town Hall held in September 2018. The topic was the City's Comprehensive Plan Update and the vision for Meridian's future. The format gave citizens the opportunity to be part of the conversation via live chat so they could ask questions and participate in polls. It was a great way for the City to connect with community members in a different way.

## HEFTY® ENERGYBAG® PROGRAM

Since the City of Meridian kicked off the Hefty® EnergyBag® program in September 2018, citizen interest has grown at a steady pace. This program allows for residents to recycle plastics that were previously sent to the local landfill. Soon after the City's initial roll-out to 1,500 households, the bags became available in local Albertsons stores. The retail option allows for all residential recycling customers to participate. Thanks to a joint effort involving Meridian, Boise, Garden City and Eagle, along with Republic Services and Western Recycling, the program has diverted 190 tons of plastic from our shared landfill.



## GLASS RECYCLING

Another big recycling update in our community is that residents can now sign up for curbside glass recycling. The City worked with Republic Services to make this happen and since the option launched in October 2018 we saw 176 curbside subscribers join by the end of December 2018. If you're interested, you can call Republic Services at 208-345-1265 to participate in the opt-in curbside program at an additional cost of \$6.47 per month. Or you can drop off glass for recycling at the Meridian Transfer Station free of charge. Republic Services reports 3.9 tons was collected curbside during the months of October thru December and 3.6 tons was dropped off at the transfer station.

MERIDIAN FIRE / RESCUE



## SAFE, HEALTHY, SECURE

For a community to prosper, it must be safe, healthy and secure. Meridian will continue to invest in activities and services that support the City's top rankings in public safety and community health. The City is focused on building a strong community and promoting the quality of life that its citizens and employees expect.

To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone!

Or visit: [meridiancity.org/2018](http://meridiancity.org/2018)



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Fire

**5**

Fire stations

**73**

Firefighters

**6,873**

Calls for service



**8,547**

Total responses

**5:21**

Response Time  
(average travel time)

**93**

AED's

**1,651**

Safety events  
/presentations



**2,981**

People taught  
Hands-Only  
CPR

**55,663**

Citizens who  
attended

**400**

Meridian homes  
checked for  
smoke alarms  
/fire safety

**147**

People certified  
in CPR



**600**

Participated  
in annual  
open house

**15**

Fire Station  
Ride-a-longs

**265**

Attended  
Smoke Bear's  
Birthday Party

**176**

Car seat checks



### EMERGENCY PLANS TO IMPROVE SERVICE

The Meridian Information Technology (IT) team collaborated with several departments to develop and implement technology and communication emergency plans. These plans ensure the City's technology and information systems will be operational in times of crisis and define contingencies in the event of a system outage. By developing these plans, updating and testing regularly, we have improved service availability for our citizens.

### SCHOOL SAFETY

The safety of students is a priority for the City, Meridian Police and Meridian Fire. In light of school shootings, these departments brought agencies from across the valley together, including the West Ada School District, to collaborate. The goal is to find working solutions to keep our kids safe that give teachers the reassurance they need. It has led to state-wide changes within school districts across Idaho. This is the type of collaborative teamwork that makes Meridian one of the safest communities to call home.

### NEW FIRE ENGINE

As part of a comprehensive fleet replacement plan developed in 2014, the Meridian Fire Department with the support of the Mayor and City Council, replaced Fire Engine 34 housed at the station on Eagle Road. This new fire engine is a needed resource for the department - ensuring the premier service continues.





### POLICE TRAINING CHANGES

Meridian Police received accreditation from Peace Officers Standards and Training which allows the department the opportunity to now train new officers in house, reducing redundancies in training. The Meridian Police Department partnered with Nampa Police in order to consolidate resources to train personnel, since both departments are similar in size and training styles. This change also has the potential for cost savings for Nampa and Meridian.

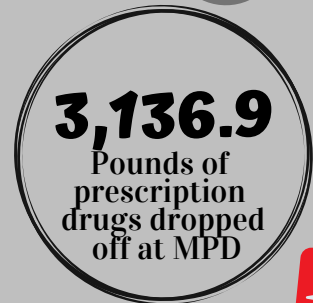
### NEW RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The City's Information Technology team partnered with Meridian Police to develop a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliant records management system in-house. The system integrates with the existing incident tracking report writing system that officers use for reports or to monitor case management. It also streamlines report entry processes for staff, and more accurately reports information to the state. Developing the records management system in-house resulted in significant cost savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Police





# ARTS, CULTURE, RECREATION

A premiere community embraces the diversity of its citizens and promotes a variety of arts, entertainment and recreational opportunities. Meridian will invest in services, facilities, programs and partnerships to establish itself as an active and vibrant community that fulfills the diverse cultural and recreational needs of its people.

To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone!

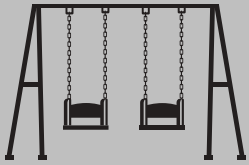
Or visit: [meridiancity.org/2018](http://meridiancity.org/2018)





# BY THE NUMBERS

## Parks



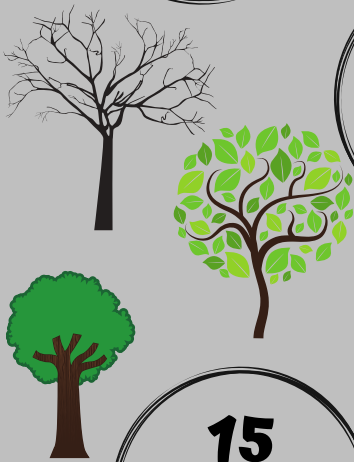
**284**

Acres of developed park land

**124**  
Acres of undeveloped park land



**4,736**  
Trees in the park's system



**15**  
Miles of maintained pathways

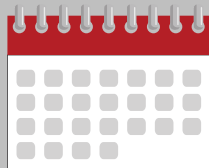
**1,343**  
Shelter reservations

**5,007**  
Activity Guide enrollments



**249**  
Sports field permits

**105**  
Event days



### FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Families in Ada and Canyon Counties now have a one-of-a-kind hub for education, recreation, wellness and literacy. The much anticipated joint project, The Hill, officially opened in Meridian in May 2018, and already serves as a national example of what communities can accomplish when organizations come together with one shared goal. The Hill is the result of collaboration between five partner organizations: the Treasure Valley Family YMCA, St. Luke's Health System, the City of Meridian, West Ada School District and the Meridian Library District. It will serve as a hub for education, recreation, wellness and literacy.

### HILLSDALE PARK OPENS

Part of The Hill includes Hillsdale Park, a 10-acre agricultural-themed City park that features a looped fitness trail, a picnic shelter, playground, restroom building, open play area, water wickets on a splash pad and unique public art. The school, the Y and the health clinics all utilize the open recreation space.



### CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE NEXT REGIONAL PARK

Construction crews broke ground on the City's next regional park in spring of 2018. Discovery Park is a 77-acre space that is located in South Meridian on Lake Hazel Road near South Locust Grove. The initial phase of the park, which is approximately 27-acres in size, is projected to open in the summer of 2019 as a fully functional park. Its amenities will include two illuminated softball fields, a restroom/concession building, parking, destination playground, splash pad, three picnic shelters that can be reserved, walking paths, sprinkler irrigation and landscaping. An off-leash dog area is also planned for the park. During the spring of 2018, the community helped name the park via a survey that went out to area schools and online. The name chosen, Discovery Park, reflects its theme. Special features and attractions will include a sand/water play space, dual zip lines, a climbing map of Idaho, roller slides, a boulder wall for climbing and more!



## **MERIDIAN MILL MURAL**

The City celebrated a new page of Meridian's history during a dedication ceremony in June 2018 for the new mural on the iconic Meridian Mill. Sector Seventeen painted the mural on the south-facing side of the mill to welcome residents and visitors as they enter historic Downtown Meridian. The mural (pictured right) honors the rural and agricultural roots that established our community as a viable place to live, work, and raise a family. The Meridian Arts Commission worked with the Meridian Development Corporation (MDC) and the Zamzow family on the new mural that adorns the Meridian Mill - which has been owned by the Zamzow family since 1933.



## **SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS AT SPLASH PADS**

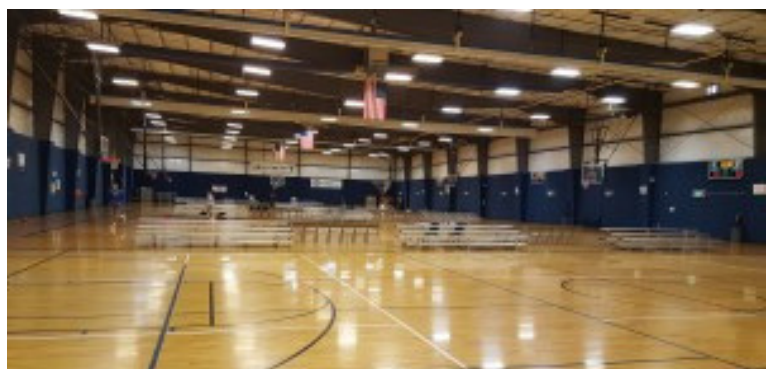
Would you believe that our most popular Facebook post of the entire year on the Meridian Parks and Recreation page was about sunscreen dispensers?! In August, Central District Health partnered with Meridian Parks and Recreation to install free sunscreen dispensers near the splash pads in Settlers, Kleiner and Hillsdale Parks. The partnership is intended to promote sun safety and the prevention of skin cancer. The Meridian Parks and Recreation Facebook post announcing this new splash pad amenity reached nearly 30,000 people and was shared more than 200 times!

## **PUBLIC ART DIGITAL MAP**

You can now view public art in Meridian from your mobile device or computer! The city has a public art digital map that gives citizens a way to easily locate 58 art pieces throughout the community to visit in-person or simply tour the art and learn about the artists online. Learn more at [meridiancity.org](http://meridiancity.org) or check out the online Annual Report.

## **MERIDIAN HOMECOURT UPGRADES**

Meridian Homecourt, the City's 49,000 square foot indoor sports court facility, is thriving under the City's ownership. As planned, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA vacated the building at the end of May 2018, upon completion of the new YMCA facility in South Meridian. Since then, the Homecourt's four NBA-sized basketball courts were resurfaced, indoor and outdoor lighting was replaced with more efficient LED bulbs and plans are underway for turning one room into flexible space for classes, camps and activities (facility pictured bottom right).



## **HISTORY AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF IDAHO**

The Meridian Historic Preservation Commission contributed to the new Children's Museum of Idaho in Meridian by supporting the construction of a small outdoor cabin that local kids can explore and learn about how early Meridian residents may have lived. The cabin's interior walls were finished with the wood of a Meridian barn that was torn down in early 2018. The museum has multiple exhibits that speak to the roots of Meridian's history and is an exciting addition to the community!

## **PATHWAY PROJECTS IN 2018**

The City made excellent progress on its pathways system during 2018 as it continues to build connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. Here's an overview of some of the pathways project that have been completed and those on the horizon:

- The H2 Five Mile Creek Pathway (Badley to Fairview) was dedicated on April 4, 2018. New signs were installed along this pathway, as well.
- The Parks team constructed a stretch of gravel pathway north of the Lemp Canal along the Larkwood neighborhood frontage on McMillan Road. The pathway will be paved in early spring 2019, now that Settlers Irrigation District improvements to the Lemp Canal bank have been completed.

### **KLEINER PARK MEMORIAL PLAZA RIBBON CUTTING**

The City of Meridian invited the public to a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the community's new Memorial Plaza in Kleiner Park on May 2, 2018 (pictured right). The plaza provides an opportunity for the community to honor loved ones. Citizens can purchase granite pavers with names included that are part of the plaza.

The plaza is a result of the second year of the Participatory Budgeting program with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC), which provides teen members the opportunity to direct City funds to projects deemed important to the community. The Meridian City Council appropriated \$20,000 for MYAC to spend, and after much research and proposals, the students decided on the memorial plaza.

### **JOURNEY OF HEROES AT HEROES PARK**

Local heroes Kristin Armstrong, Alex Fox and Dean Brigham, who are all featured on Meridian's new Journey of Heroes public art installation, were part of the dedication ceremony held on March 15, 2018 in Heroes Park.

Treasure Valley artist Ken McCall created the art piece, which stands 26-feet tall (pictured right). The art installation also includes a series of five small trail markers along the park's pathway that pay tribute to an Idaho hero, nominated by local schools. Those honored include: Olympic Gold Medalist Kristin Armstrong nominated by Pioneer Elementary School (pictured bottom right with Mayor Tammy); Educator Dean Brigham nominated by Paramount Elementary School; WWII combat pilot Gregory "Pappy" Boyington nominated by Heritage Middle School; local organ donor Alex Fox nominated by Rocky Mountain High School; and Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph nominated by Chief Joseph School of the Arts.

The project is the result of collaboration between the Meridian Arts Commission and the Meridian Parks & Recreation Department and Commission. It was created in support of the City of Meridian's goal to add more art to the community's parks and open spaces.

### **FULLER PARK BECOMES A CITY MANAGED PARK**

Western Ada Recreation District (WARD) transferred the operation of Fuller Park to the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department, effective October 1, 2018. WARD and the City of Meridian agreed the fully-staffed Parks Department is in a better position to more



## FULLER PARK BECOMES A CITY MANAGED PARK (CONTINUED)

efficiently handle Fuller Park's daily maintenance needs and manage its use for the public. Fuller Park (pictured right), a mature 22-acre park that lies beneath a canopy of soaring cottonwood trees, was dedicated in 1981 and named after land donors Jim and Jeannie Fuller. It is located in the Parkside Creek subdivision near the southeast corner of Cherry Lane and Ten Mile Road.

## BIKE REPAIR STATIONS

Bicycle repair stations, complete with air pumps and repair tools, were installed in several Meridian parks including Kleiner, Settlers, Bear Creek, Reta Huskey, Hillsdale, Heroes and Centennial. Other locations include the Meridian Library on Cherry Lane and Paramount Subdivision Park. Additional repair stations are slated for Cole Valley Christian High School and Fast Eddy's locations.

Bicyclists can use their smart phone to snap a QR code on the fix-it stations to receive useful bike repair information and instructions.

This project was partially funded through the Meridian Youth Advisory Council's 2018 participatory budgeting process, with additional funding support from Fast Eddy's and Brighton Corporation. Stay tuned for an announcement in 2019, once all of the stations are installed.

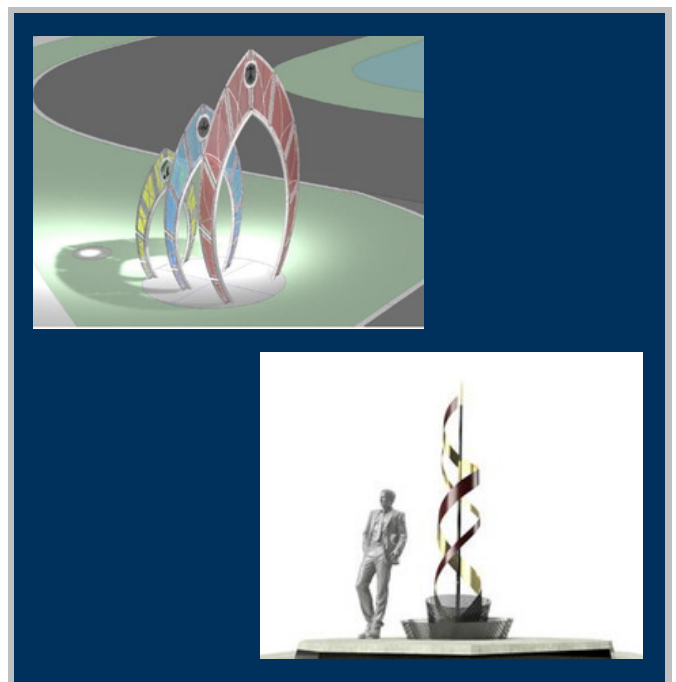
## COMING SOON:

## THEME PROJECTS AT LOCAL PARKS

Members of the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department and Commission are working with the Meridian Arts Commission to install artwork in two neighborhood parks—Champion Park and Renaissance Park—to reinforce park identity. Champion Park is located in North Meridian off Ustick Road. Renaissance Park is situated in the Tuscany Subdivision in South Meridian off of Eagle Road (projects pictured right).

## KLEINER PARK BANDSHELL SHADE

A much-needed shade structure to protect the stage of the Kleiner Park bandshell from summertime heat and glare has received funding approval from the Meridian City Council. Beginning in 2019, giant shade sails will be put up each June through September to help provide relief from the heat for the musicians and performers who utilize the facility for performances. We look forward to this new improvement, making the band shell a more comfortable venue.



# CITY BUDGET

The City of Meridian takes its fiduciary responsibilities seriously. The City has embarked on a culture shift with budgeting and planning from a line item approach to a program based approach - called Priority Based Budgeting. It does not eliminate line items but requires staff to take each dollar we are entrusted with and understand how each dollar is tied to the programs we provide.

The City's financial mission is to achieve community goals within a framework that is fiscally sustainable. This requires a conservative 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 charts to the right show the Fiscal Year 2019 (began October 1, 2018) budgets for the General Fund and Enterprise Fund. You'll find more information and can take a deeper look into any part of the budget that you wish to see online at [meridiancity.org/finances](http://meridiancity.org/finances) or via the online Annual Report at [meridiancity.org/2018](http://meridiancity.org/2018). Please note: Capital is a one-time investment and the operating budget illustrates ongoing expenses.

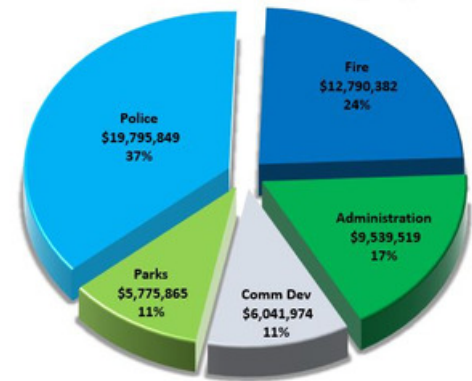
The **GENERAL FUND** derives 60% of its income from property tax, the rest comes from development and intergovernmental revenue. It pays for basic City services: Community Development and Planning, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police and Administration.

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.

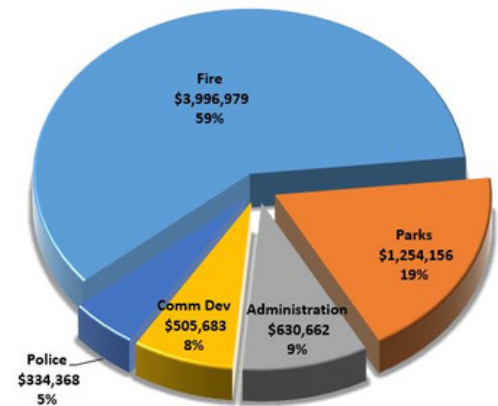
Dive in at [meridiancity.org/finances](http://meridiancity.org/finances)

## GENERAL FUND

FY2019 General Fund - Operating Budget

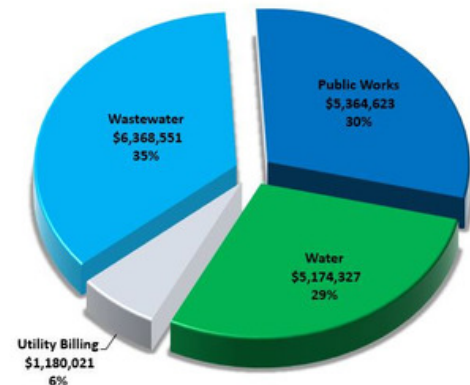


FY2019 General Fund - Capital Budget

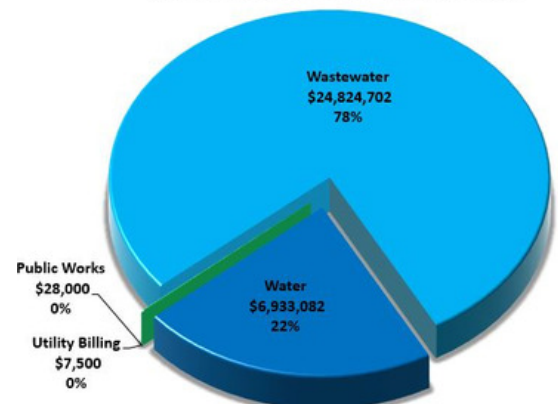


## ENTERPRISE FUND

FY2019 Enterprise Fund - Operating Budget



FY2019 Enterprise Fund - Capital Budget



# LEADERSHIP

## CITY COUNCIL



JOE BORTON



GENESIS MILAM



TREG BERNT



LUKE CAVENER



ANNE LITTLE ROBERTS



TY PALMER

## DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS



Pictured Left to Right: Chief Mark Niemeyer, Meridian Fire | Chief Jeff Lavey, Meridian Police | Cameron Arial, Community Development | Robert Simison, Chief of Staff | Mayor Tammy de Weerd | Dale Bolthouse, Public Works | Bill Nary, Legal | Crystal Ritchie, Human Resources | Steve Siddoway, Parks and Recreation | Todd Lavoie, Finance | Not Pictured: Dave Tiede, Information Technology

# ACCOLADES



Youth Council Achievement Award for #DoTheRight - Association of Idaho Cities

6th Fastest Growing Small City in America - WalletHub

Best Place to live in Idaho - Homesnacks



Public Safety Achievement Award - Association of Idaho Cities

7th Safest City in Idaho - Safewise



Bronze level Workplace Health Achievement - American Heart Assoc.



Rotary Paul Harris Award given to Mayor Tammy for service to Meridian

Keith Bird Legacy Park: Outstanding Park or Facility - Idaho Recreation and Parks Association



Todd Lavoie, City's Chief Financial Officer: Excellence in Finance - Idaho Business Review

Parks Ambassador Program: Outstanding Innovative Program - Idaho Recreation and Parks Association

Storey Bark Park is one of Idaho's best dog parks! -Woofswipe.com

Colin Moss: Outstanding Recreation Professional - Idaho Recreation and Parks Association



**LEGACY AWARD:** CHARLIE ROUNTREE is an Idaho native who has lived in Meridian for more than 40 years. He served three terms on the Meridian City Council and served as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for eight years. He is a past Western Ada Recreation District Commissioner, past Meridian Parks and Recreation Commissioner, past chairman of the Valley Region Transit Board and currently serves on the Community Planning Association Board. Charlie and his wife Nancy are both extremely active in the community and it's an honor to recognize his contributions to Meridian over the past four decades.

CITY OF MERIDIAN, IDAHO  
2018



# STAY CONNECTED

208-888-4433

MERIDIANCITY.ORG

@MERIDIANIDAHO

#MyMeridian



To access all of the new online features, and our digital annual report, scan this QR code on your phone!

Or visit: [meridiancity.org/2018](http://meridiancity.org/2018)

