

2010 - 2011
ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrate Meridian



The Next Decade



Built for Business

Designed for Living

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

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Just look for the "Stay Connected" link on the City of Meridian website at www.meridiancity.org. From there you can subscribe to the newsletter and other useful City notices and publications.

City of Meridian Department Directors



Bill Nary
*City Attorney
HR Director*



Stacy Kilchenmann
*Chief
Financial
Director*



Anna Canning
*Planning
Director*



Steve Siddoway
*Parks & Recreation
Director*



Tom Barry
*Public Works
Director*



Jeff Lavey
Police Chief



Mark Niemeyer
Fire Chief

At Your Service



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Meridian, ID 83642

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Business Hours:
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Visit us online at:
www.meridiancity.org

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City of Meridian

33 E. Broadway Avenue
Meridian, ID 83642

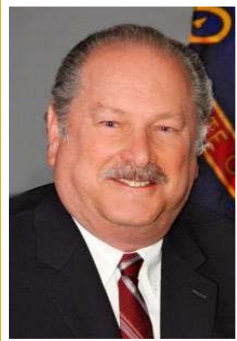
Editor: Shelly Houston
(208) 489-0531

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Mayor and members of the Meridian City Council are elected by the citizens of Meridian. They work together to set policies, guide city government, and appropriate funds for various community needs.

Through their public service to the constituents of Meridian, the Mayor and Council members maintain a deep-rooted commitment to enhance the quality of life, safeguard neighborhood interests, respond to public concerns, and stay connected to the community they represent.

The Meridian City Council meets the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. and on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Meridian City Hall. These meetings, presided over by the Mayor, are open to the public and streamed live from the City website.



David Zaremba
President



Brad Hoaglund
Vice President



Charlie Rountree



Keith Bird



Mayor Tammy de Weerd
and grandson Gabriel

As we find ourselves a full decade into the new millennium, I can't help but marvel at how much we in Meridian have to celebrate. Our accomplishments have been plentiful, our obstacles manageable, and our citizens filled with growing optimism and a *can-do* spirit.

While transforming our community into a prosperous 21st century city, we've managed to maintain respect for our heritage and hold onto much of our "small town" ambience, while sculpting a vibrant, modern future bounded only by our own imaginations.

Today, we once again stand in a moment of opportunity in Meridian's evolution, where, I believe, the next ten years will define our city for decades to come.

There's an often-quoted African proverb that says — *"Tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."* In that spirit, we're now setting the stage for Meridian's next ten years.

Guided by the plans that have been laid and aided by our first ever city survey, City leaders and staff have been hard at work laying the groundwork for a dynamic and prosperous future that will not only meet, but in many cases exceed, the expectations of Meridian residents, and set high standards other Idaho cities may strive to emulate and attain as well.

Working together, we can create sustainable growth, achieve economic prosperity, build our community's character, and maintain the quality of life we enjoy that is second to none!

Location

Meridian, the population center of the Treasure Valley, is just minutes away from anywhere in the Boise metropolitan area, including airports, regional medical centers, cultural events, and government services. Interstate 84 links Meridian with Boise to the east and Nampa to the west.



Latitude 43.61 N
Longitude 116.40 W

Land Area
26.86 square miles

Elevation
2,600 feet

Climate
High Avg. Daily Max Temp: 90.6F
Low Avg. Daily Min Temp: 22.6F
Average Annual Precipitation: 11.7"
Average Annual Snowfall: 21.6"

History
Established in 1893, Meridian was incorporated as a village in 1903 with a population of approximately 200.

Population:
75,290 (COMPASS estimate)

Median Resident Age:
31

Gender Split:
Male 49%
Female 51%

Median Household Income
* \$66,613

Cost of Living
* 94% of national average

Median Home Cost
* \$196,400

Average Commute Time
* 20.6 minutes

** Source: Idaho Dept. of Labor*

Education

Meridian Joint School District No. 2:
3 K-8 Schools
28 Elementary Schools
9 Middle Schools
9 High Schools

High school graduation rate
94% of high school students graduate

Area colleges & universities
Idaho State University – Meridian
University of Idaho
George Fox University
University of Phoenix
Stevens-Henager College
University of Idaho
Broadview University
Boise State University
College of Southwestern Idaho
Northwest Nazarene University
Treasure Valley Community College
Brown Mackie College
ITT Technical Institute
College of Western Idaho
Milan Institute
Boise Bible College
The College of Idaho
Carrington College

College attendance rate

68% of high school graduates go on to college

Meridian Library District

Meridian Library — Main
Meridian Library — Silverstone
Bookmobile



Developed parks

18 developed parks
182.206 acres

Undeveloped Parks

4 fully undeveloped parks
184.252 acres

Future Parks

5 neighborhood parks
1 community park
65 acres

Pathways

4 pathways
10.976 acres

2010 Property Tax Distribution

Total Mill Levy
0.012971864

City of Meridian	31.53%
Schools (Bonds & Emergency)	26.91%
Ada County	23.59%
County Highway District	9.16%
Library & Bonds	5.09%
Emergency Medical / Ambulance	1.19%
Western Ada Recreation District	0.76%
Mosquito Abatement	0.27%
Cemetery	0.25%
College of Western Idaho	0.25%

Fire

- 5 Fire Stations
- 1 Training Tower
- 1 Fire Safety Center
- 35 Firefighter/EMTs
- 22 Firefighter/Paramedics
- 16 Part-Time On-Call Firefighters
- 8 Administrative Staff

ISO Rating: 3

Total Incident Calls: 4,292
 City Limits — 3,686
 Rural — 273
 Aid to Other Depts. — 333

Average Response Time
 for Level 3—Emergency Calls
 within the City Limits — 4:47
 (4 seconds faster than 2009)



Customer service

11,796 telephone calls came in to the City of Meridian's main telephone line.

Total Permits issued by The City Clerk's Office: 673

- Liquor * Catering * Fireworks
- Massage * Mobile sales units
- Pawn brokering * Private security
- Temporary uses * Citizens use
- Dog licenses

Police

- 87 Sworn Police Officers
- 28 Non-Sworn Police Staff

2010 Calls for Service: 50,487
 (1,052 more calls than 2009)

2010 Police Response Times by Type:

Level 3—Emergency Call
 3:53 (8 seconds slower than 2009)

Level 2—Urgent Response Required
 7:28 (1 second faster than 2009)

Level 1—Non Emergency Call
 9.56 (1:02 faster than 2009)

Offenses: 2,775
 (9.6% increase from 2009)

Arrests: 2,041
 (16% increase from 2009)

Crimes against Persons: 563
 (Decrease of 6.3% from 2009)
 Examples: sex offenses and assaults

Crimes against Property: 1,749
 (Increase of 7.2% from 2009)
 Examples: burglaries, fraud

Crimes against Society: 463 (Increase of 55.4% from 2009)
 Examples: drug violations, weapons

The Police Department's overall clearance (crimes solved) rate of Group A Offenses is up from 46.4% in 2009 to 46.8% in 2010

Increases in several of these categories can be attributed to the positive impacts of proactive policing and citizen involvement.

Did You Know...?

Meridian is one of the safest cities in Idaho, according to the 2009 *Crime in Idaho* publication, based upon the crime rate per 100,000 population as calculated by the total number of Group "A" offenses reported under NIBRS!

New Building Permits
Calendar Year 2010



New residential permits

Total permits: 513
Value:
 \$120,904,232

New commercial permits

Total permits: 32
Value:
 \$28,697,454

Infrastructure

- 450 miles of water line
- 375 miles of sewer line
- 21 PRV stations
- 1 booster station
- 18 active wells
- 14 lift stations
- 4,050 active fire hydrants
- 9,100 manholes

2010 volunteer hours

Citizens donated 23,909 volunteer hours of their time to the City of Meridian during 2010.



FY2010 Financial and Budgetary Highlights

The City's budget process is driven by balancing the predicted available revenues (the revenue forecast) with current service level needs and a prioritized list of the City's desired program enhancements. Working together, the City's departments and the Mayor determine how the list should be prioritized. This is done with a view toward optimizing benefit for City stakeholders as a whole.

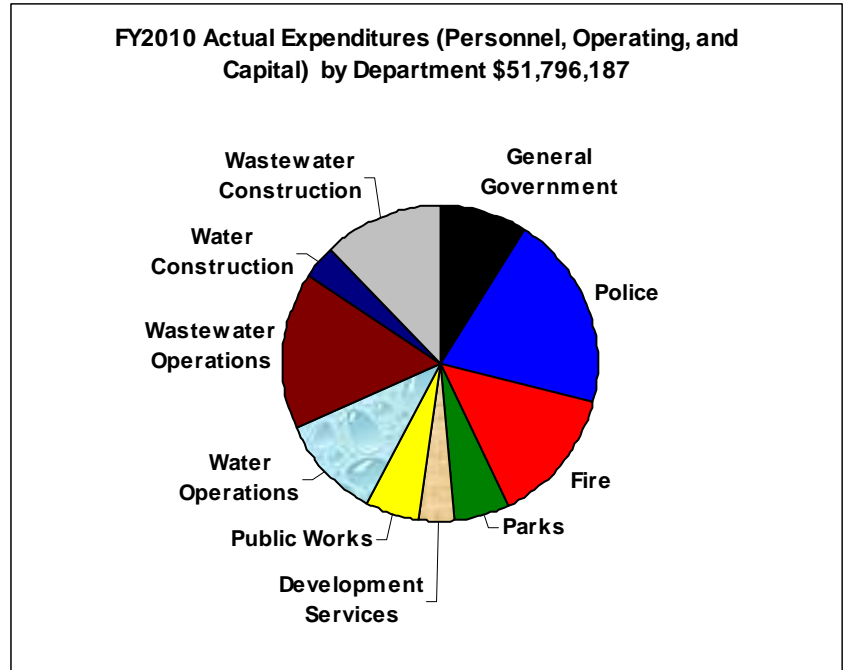
The City accurately forecast that development and economic growth in FY2010 would increase appreciatively in comparison to FY2009, and revenue numbers were actually better than expected. FY2010 General Fund revenues exceeded the FY2010 expenditures by about \$3 million.

The City's FY2010 general fund revenues exceeded the FY2010 expenditures by 8.8%. The General Fund for FY2010 returned 16.7% of the budget while the Enterprise Fund returned 31.5% of the budget. All returned budget dollars impacted the individual fund balances in a positive way.

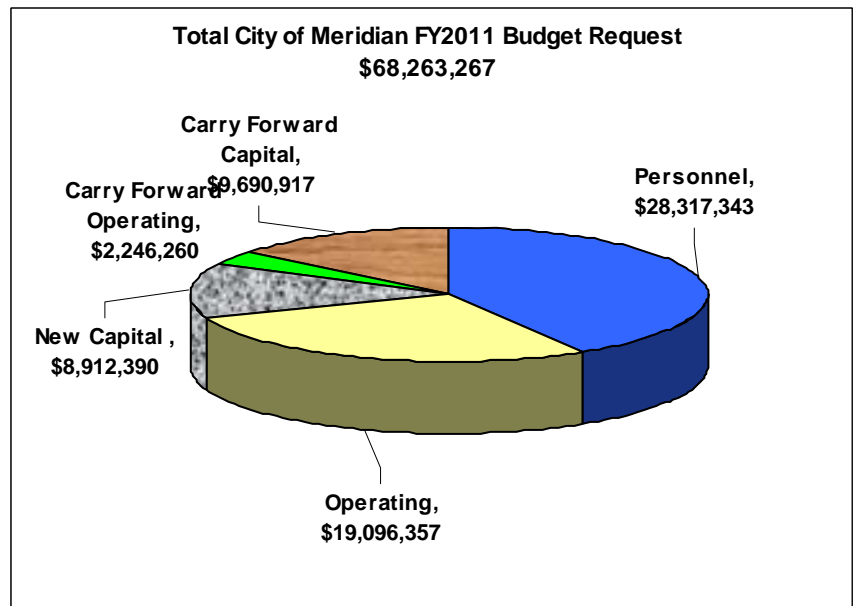
Significant FY2010 Budget Items:

- Meridian Fire Department added three additional firefighters.
- Staff and resources for Kleiner Park.
- Added \$2.7 million worth of Reclaimed Water Lines to the system.
- Added \$6.4 million to Construction in Process for waste treatment projects.
- Spent \$300,000 toward construction of multiple water wells.
- Transferred \$515,000 to the Public Safety Capital Fund to save for future public safety-related capital projects.
- Transferred \$560,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund to save for future General Government capital projects.

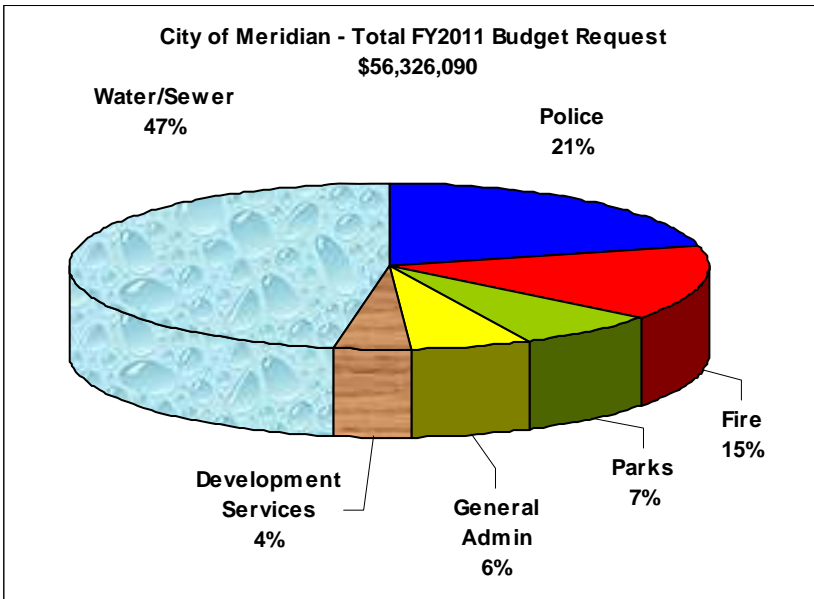
Where We Came From...



Where We Are Going...

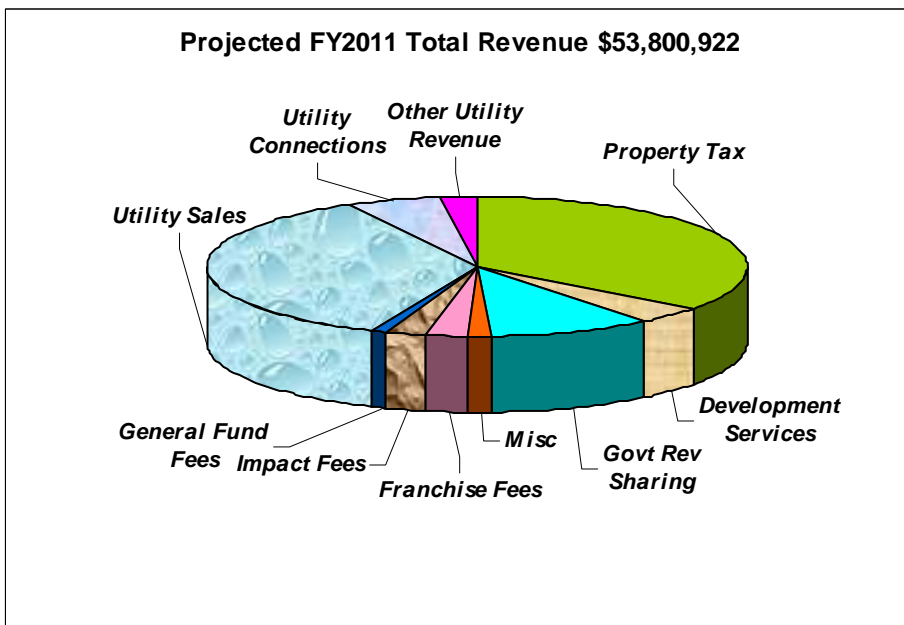


Note: The graph above illustrates the City's total FY2011 budget by class of expense. The term "Carry Forward" refers to capital projects that have been budgeted in prior periods but not yet completed.



Worth Noting...

When preparing its budget for Fiscal Year 2011, The City of Meridian chose to forego a 3% property tax increase allowed by Idaho law.



FY2011 Financial and Budgetary Highlights

The FY211 budget was built around bare-bones revenue forecasts. We plan for development growth to be below FY2010 levels and consumer spending to remain flat. However, the City was still able to continue the FY2010 service level and add some enhancements.

- The Fire Department added a Division Chief.
- The Parks Department budgeted \$500,000 toward park development, \$400,000 towards a new maintenance shop, additional resources needed for Kleiner Park and added a City Arborist.
- The Police Department replaced \$381,000 worth of vehicles and equipment.
- The Police Department added 8 employees with 4 of them funded from a federal grant.
- The Water Department budgeted \$240,000 towards SCADA, \$400,000 towards waterline extensions, \$468,000 toward replacing older meters with radio-read meters, \$480,000 for water main replacement, \$410,000 for well construction and \$391,000 for source water master planning.
- The Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) budgeted \$175,000 towards SCADA, \$150,000 for a new WWTP facility plan, \$710,000 for sewer main replacement, \$2.7 million for treatment plant improvements, \$350,000 for sewer line extensions, and will add one new WWTP mechanic.

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

- Public Safety Day
- Community Block Party
- Mayor's Prayer Breakfast
- Old Town Cleanup
- Paint the Town
- Rake Up Meridian
- Free Family Fishing Day
- Recovery Day Celebration
- Missoula Children's Theatre
- Vern Law Day
- Concerts on Broadway Series
- Firefighters Salmon BBQ
- Community Chili Cook-Off
- Arbor Day Tree Planting
- Town Hall Meetings
- State of the City Address
- Barn Sour Fun Run
- Family 4th of July Celebration
- CableOne Movie Night
- Teen Activities Council Events
- Meridian Business Day
- Public Works Expo
- Business Supporting Youth Awards
- Taste of Meridian Reception
- Annual Faith Leaders Luncheon
- Mayor & CEO's Kids Book Club
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Initial Point Gallery Art Displays
- National Night Out
- City Hall Holiday Bazaar
- Backpacks for Kids Food Drive
- Hometown Hero Presentation
- Meridian Night at the Hawks



Vern Law Day



Free Family Fishing Day



Community Block Party



Missoula Children's Theatre



Firefighters Go Pink for National Breast Cancer Awareness

MERIDIAN GAINS NATIONAL ACCOLADES

- “100 Best Places to Live in the U.S.”
Money/CNN — August 2010
- “100 Best Communities for Young People”
America’s Promise — September 2010
- “Ten Best Towns for Families”
Family Circle Magazine — August 2010



HOMETOWN HERO



Meridian resident Kelly Lloyd was honored as a Hometown Hero by the City of Meridian for courageously rescuing a wheelchair-bound man who had accidentally tumbled into a swift-running creek.

AIC CITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Association of Idaho Cities’ City Achievement Award program recognizes Idaho cities for programs or projects created and implemented to improve quality of life, solve community problems, reduce costs of government, and increase municipal services.

Meridian’s Winning Programs

Electronic Plans Submittal Program
*Development Services Division
Meridian Public Works Department*

Incident Tracking System
*Meridian Police Department and
Information Technology Department*

Settlers Village Square - Phase 1
Meridian Parks and Recreation Department

MERIDIAN’S 2010 GOVERNOR’S IDAHO’S BRIGHTEST STARS AWARDS

Statewide Winner — Corporation
Western States Equipment Company

Statewide Winner — Organization
Meridian Kiwanis

Statewide Top 3 — Small Business
UltraClean, Owner Brandon White

Idaho’s Brightest Star — Student
Janelle de Weerd

Idaho’s Brightest Stars — Individual
Brian Simer * Janelle Johnson * Terry P. Smith

Idaho’s Brightest Stars — Corporation
Blue Cross of Idaho * Bodybuilding.com

REACHING THE TOP



Meridian Police Chief Jeff Lavey earned Executive Certification, the highest training certificate awarded to executive-level peace officers in the state.

Chief Lavey is one of only a few officers in Idaho who have achieved this certification.

2010 BUSINESS SUPPORTING YOUTH AWARD WINNERS

- Individual:** Rich Nesbit
- Small Business:** Idaho Dairy Products Commission
- Large Business:** Wells Fargo

Presented by Meridian’s Promise

Meridian’s Census 2010 Participation Rankings



- “Top 35” in U.S.
- 1st in Pacific Northwest
- 1st in the West
(Cities over 35,000 population)

SHARING OUR SUCCESSES

The Mayor’s Anti-Drug Coalition (MADC) was invited to present its award-winning *Recognize*, a youth anti-drug program, to a national audience at the National Police Activities League Conference held in May in New Orleans. The *Recognize* program trains the coaches of local youth athletic teams to educate their players about the harmful effects of underage drug and alcohol use and the importance of making good choices. The MADC is a private, public, non-profit partnership.

Planning for Our Energy Future

In 2010, City Council adopted an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy that incorporates the City's mission, vision, and ongoing initiatives into the energy planning process. This strategy serves as a guide for achieving both short-range and long-range objectives for energy



efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the creation of sustainable jobs. Short-range energy goals will be achieved by allocating funds for specific Council-approved projects. The comprehensive list of projects, programs, policies, and implementation measures identified in this plan will facilitate the City's long-range energy success during the next decade.

Solid Waste Committee Becomes City Commission

Meridian's Solid Waste Advisory Committee became a bona fide City commission during 2010. The group's appointed members, who meet monthly, advise the Mayor and City Council on rules, regulations, policies, fees, and other matters related to the City's fully automated solid waste collection system and recycling programs.

Dnt Txt n Drv... In Meridian It's the Law

As of November 1, 2010, a new ordinance known as "Kassy's Law" made it illegal for drivers in Meridian to write, send, or read text messages while operating a moving vehicle. A first or second violation is an infraction punishable by a \$75 fine. A third or subsequent violation is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$300, or imprisonment for up to 90 days, or both. By working to eliminate this dangerous behavior through education and enforcement, City leaders hope to improve roadway safety for everyone.



Public Works Plan Lays Out Strategies for the Future

More than a year of hard work has paid off for a team of Public Works Department employees who worked together to draft the department's first multiyear strategic plan. The 56-page plan will guide the department's work during the next five years and identifies and prioritizes 75 strategic objectives. These objectives are deemed critical to the success of the department's projects, plans, and service delivery as they relate to community goals and objectives defined by the Meridian City Council.

City Adds Video and Television to Its Communication Toolbox

City leaders are continually seeking new ways of engaging residents and providing them with useful news and information. Visitors to the City of Meridian website can watch "This Week in Meridian," a brief weekly video hosted by a rotating cast of City staff members who highlight upcoming community events. Other City-produced videos and video-blogs ("vlogs") providing timely information about community issues can also be accessed from the City website. Other recent communication innovations include "Celebrate Meridian," a monthly television show hosted by Mayor Tammy and featuring a variety of guests from the community. It can be viewed on Treasure Valley Community Television (TVCT) every Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or any time from the City of Meridian website.

Streamlining the Incident Tracking Process

The City's Police and Information Technology Departments recently developed a customized computer application that streamlines police reporting. This ensures reports are processed and analyzed quickly and efficiently. By automating and integrating multiple computer systems, the incident tracking process eliminates duplicate entries, and provides officers and detectives with a single tool to search data and record case information. Purchasing a similar system from an outside vendor could have cost several hundred thousand dollars. This time-saving system was awarded a 2010 City Achievement Award by the Association of Idaho Cities.

Meridian Just Say No to Spice

Spice, a trendy herbal product marketed in retail shops and online as “non-consumable incense” but commonly smoked for its marijuana-like effects, is now illegal in Meridian. Meridian’s new spice ordinance is intended to reinforce the temporary rule of the State Board of Pharmacy, which adds chemicals found in spice to Idaho’s list of controlled substances. Any person in violation of this ordinance will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fines and potential incarceration.

A Movie and a Message

In an effort to offer information on underage drinking in an innovative way, the Mayor’s Anti-Drug Coalition arranged a community forum on underage drinking and paired it with a free showing of the movie “Furry Vengeance” at Meridian’s Majestic Cinemas. Nearly 200 parents, tweens, and teens attended this unique event.



Portable Fire Safety House Goes to School

The Meridian Fire Department, in cooperation with the Meridian Firefighters Association, purchased a portable inflatable Fire Safety House that provides a creative learning environment for elementary school children. The portability of the safety house will decrease the cost to Joint School District No. 2 by bringing life safety messages to the schools, as opposed to busing children to the permanent Fire Safety Center.

Manhole Retrofits Project Completed

During 2010, the Public Works Department completed a significant manhole retrofits project. Performed in conjunction with wastewater collections maintenance projects, this work eliminated approximately 250,000 gallons per day of groundwater infiltration, raised 54 manholes to proper grade, and repaired 45 damaged or deteriorated manholes. The elimination of the infiltration alone helps the wastewater treatment plant stay within the City’s permitted 7 million gallons per day limit on discharges and saves up to \$150,000 per year in treatment costs.

Amenities Added to Neighborhood Park

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Centennial Park in August as newly installed park amenities were dedicated, including the NEOS 360 electronic play structure, picnic shelter, gaming table, drinking fountain, and bike rack. Community Development Block Grant monies and private donations helped fund these improvements. In October, the picnic shelter and a new park bench were named after civic leader Terry P. Smith who passed away earlier in the year. An oak tree was also planted in his honor.



Youth Council Dinner-Auction Raises \$4,000 to Benefit Meridian Food Bank

The Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council raised an impressive \$4,000 for the Meridian Food Bank through its annual Dinner-Auction held at Renaissance High School. The evening — with the theme “One Dinner, One Night, Make a Difference in Somebody’s Life” — included both silent and live auction items and a meal prepared by students of Renaissance High School’s culinary arts program.



Grant Allows City to Take a Proactive Approach to Community Policing

The Meridian Police Department received a COPS Grant in October 2010 authorizing the hiring of four police officers. This grant will pay all their wages and benefits for three years. These four officers, and a newly approved sergeant's position, comprise the new Crime Reduction Team for the City of Meridian. The mission of this team is to reduce crimes in our neighborhoods through proactive enforcement based on specific tactical crime analysis. This team will be responsible for reducing all crimes, but their primary focus will be burglaries, thefts, vandalisms, and other crimes that affect the quality of life of our citizens.



Online Questionnaire Helps Answer the Question: "How Long Will It Take?"

The Planning Department has developed a series of online questionnaires to help customers find out approximately how long it will take their projects to complete the permitting process, and assist them in applying for common permits such as temporary use permits and temporary sign permits. These can be accessed from the Planning Department page on the City of Meridian website.

Heroes Park Receives Third Phase of Improvements

In May, Heroes Park received two playground structures, two picnic shelters, a restroom/concessions building, a maintenance/storage area, a pathway, a shade trellis, and various landscape improvements, including the addition of approximately 100 trees. The park, which is now watered exclusively with reclaimed water, also has a new interpretive plaza and water feature that demonstrates the uses and explains advantages of reclaimed water to park visitors.

CDBG Funds Help Make the Connection

Many exciting things were accomplished during the third year of the City's federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which assists low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods. Using CDBG funds, the Meridian Food Bank provided food to more than 29,000 people, and the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority provided down payments and closing cost assistance to three low-income families to purchase homes in Meridian. The Boys & Girls Club funded a transportation program for their after-school program, and the Parks and Recreation Department added amenities to Centennial Park and improved pathways that connect Meridian's neighborhoods, parks, and waterways.



Serving Up Training to Reduce Underage Drinking

The Meridian Police Department and Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition teamed up to provide two free training workshops to grocery and convenience store clerks and managers regarding alcohol laws and underage drinking enforcement. Approximately 60 local store employees participated in these summertime trainings, which covered topics such as proper ID checking, how to refuse service, and when to contact local law enforcement. The purpose of the training is to help servers, sellers, and consumers of alcohol identify and respond to incidents of overserving, intoxication, drunk driving, and underage drinking.

Meridian's Waste Collection Is on a Roll

In order to keep up with evolving technology, handle waste pickup more efficiently, and encourage recycling, Meridian transitioned in July to a cart-based, fully automated waste collection system. The refuse collection industry nationwide has been moving away from manual collection because automated collection is safer, cleaner, and utilizes personnel more efficiently.



Meridian's upgrade to an automated system is making community members more cognizant of the amount of refuse they generate and of their recycling habits, helping reduce the amount of waste that ends up in our limited landfill space. It also allows for more equitable services. Households that dispose of smaller amounts of trash will pay the lowest fees.

New Technology Helps Improve Emergency Response Times

Automatic Vehicle Routing and Recommendation (AVRR) technology is helping improve emergency service response times by utilizing GPS technology to recommend the closest appropriate unit. This system is currently being used in Ada County by both EMS and Fire personnel, including the Meridian Fire Department. By using real-time location data to identify and dispatch the closest emergency vehicles, response times are minimized. This real-time data technology also allows personnel to respond to calls in a safer manner by reducing unnecessary emergency driving, and maximizes resource allocation through dispatch partnerships with allied agencies.



Code Clarifications, Updates, and Amendments

The City strives to keep abreast of necessary code amendments each year, covering topics that range from wetlands to day care to street lighting and more. Some of the more substantial code amendments made during the year involved assisting the Fire Department in a gas pipe line ordinance, incentives for voluntary annexation, and the development of an agricultural zone. The City also clarified some complicated code amendments such as amending adult entertainment regulations, updated and relocated the 1950s code related to mobile home parks, and developed tools which will help build out roads in the Ten Mile Specific Area Plan, among others.

Developers and Agencies Appreciate 24/7 Access to Planning & Zoning Documents

In an effort to streamline Planning & Zoning application and notification processes and facilitate the sharing of documents, the Meridian City Clerk's Office now posts all development applications online in their entirety, making them accessible around-the-clock to developers and other agencies that must review them. This reduces a great deal of photocopying, faxing, and mailing by the City applicants and other agencies, saving time, energy, and money for everyone involved.



Disc Golf Courses are Right on Target

The Parks & Recreation Department installed two nine-hole winter disc golf courses, one at Bear Creek Park and the other at Settlers Park. Disc golf is a game in which players throw a flying disc into a metal and chain basket or at a specific target. As in standard golf, the object of the game is to traverse the course from beginning to end with the fewest number of throws of the disc. Meridian's disc golf targets are only in place during the winter months, when the parks are less populated. There is no cost to play and players supply their own discs.

Emerging Leaders Program Prepares Leaders of the Future

In January, the Meridian Police Department realized the need to take a more active role in the development of its future leaders and succession planning. With this in mind, the Meridian Police Department developed an Emerging Leaders Program. This program utilizes leaders from business, education, military, and law enforcement to pass on their visions and experiences in leadership. Presenters share with police staff how the things they learned and did in very different, could be adapted to law enforcement. Eighteen members of the Meridian Police Department, including both sworn and non-sworn personnel, completed the program's first session.

Making Strides in Water Supply and Distribution

Public Works' Engineering Division had an extremely busy year with many accomplishments, including the design and construction of Well 10B and a monitoring well that will provide the City with valuable information regarding water quality and quantity. This group also completed Supply Wells 27 and 28, and assessed Wells 9, 18, 21, and 22 for maintenance needs, mechanical issues, and other potential issues. Another notable project completed was the replacement of sewer and water lines on Broadway Avenue. This was the first project in which the City incorporated pipe bursting technology, resulting in less invasive construction and significant cost savings over traditional methods.

Impact Coaching Program Promotes Clear Minds and Strong Bodies

The Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition, Leadership 1st, and Rocky Mountain High School partnered to bring a powerful leadership and substance abuse program to Rocky Mountain's football players. The program, called *Impact Coaching*, provided an experiential learning opportunity for the students that educated them about teamwork, athletic performance, and the consequences of their decisions. It was followed with mentoring by coaches and additional education and character-building activities. The program's success and the dedication of the athletes who participated was then honored during a half-time event at a Rocky Mountain home football game and then celebrated at the team's end-of-season party.



Partnering to Explore Alternative Fuel Sources

The City of Meridian has developed an innovative public-private partnership with INL, as well as Advanced BioEnergy Systems, Center for Advanced Energy Studies, University of Idaho, and Boise State University at the City's wastewater treatment plant. This multi-organizational endeavor is a pilot project to study and advance the optimization of anaerobic digester gas at the wastewater treatment plant in order to develop cleaner and more concentrated biogas for use as a fuel source and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The City's Wastewater Division has already realized significant natural gas savings through the capture of methane gas for boiler use. The anaerobic digesters produce approximately 80,000 ft³ of digester gas per day, about 5 to 10% of which is scrubbed, compressed, and used to fire hot-water boilers that keep the digesters at the optimal temperature. This process can save the City up to \$5,000 per month in natural gas costs.



Putting the Power of Youth to Work



The Idaho Youth Conservation Corps is a cooperative with the Idaho Department of Labor that gives opportunities to at-risk youth to learn valuable hands-on job skills. The Meridian Public Works Department worked with the Corps to bring volunteers to the City of Meridian for the summer. Members of the Idaho Youth Conservation Corps collected GPS data on approximately 1,500 City water

meters and hundreds of street lights. At the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant, members made rounds to check equipment, worked in the test laboratory with water samples, and helped with cleaning. At the Water Department, members went into the field with City employees to help with service shut-offs and turn-ons, set water meters, and repair service mains. The teens and young adults were teamed with City staff to help guide and organize their activities. This partnership was mutually beneficial, as not only do the youth in the Corps benefit, but so do Meridian residents as the assigned tasks they performed saved taxpayer dollars.

Volunteers Spring Clean Downtown Meridian

In May, the City once again hosted a community-wide cleanup in downtown Meridian. This year, volunteers focused their efforts on the historic neighborhood of Old Town east of Main, south of Fairview, and north of the railroad tracks. Partners in the project included the Meridian Police Department's Crime Prevention and Code Enforcement divisions; the Meridian Boys and Girls Club; Ten Mile Christian Church; Meridian's Promise; Pacific Recycling; and SSC. T-shirts were handed out to volunteers and Ten Mile Christian Church provided both morning and lunch refreshments. Several tons of metals, wood, and yard debris were collected and turned in for recycling, resulting in a \$1,000 cash donation from Pacific Recycling to the Meridian Food Bank.



Meridian Academy Students Make Their Mark

The Meridian Arts Commission engaged the art students from Meridian Academy to paint a colorful mural on one of the concrete walls of the skateboard area in Tully Park. Students took three weeks to complete the 6' x 25' mural, which was created under the supervision of their art instructor and with the approval of both the City Council and the City's Parks Amenities and Signage Committee.



Mayor Tammy Teams Up with Local CEOs to Encourage Children to Read

The Mayors & CEO's Kids Book Club is a real success story. Each month during the school year, local companies partner with the City to sponsor a book club gathering of local school children in grades 3, 4, and 5. Each child receives a hardcover copy of the month's featured book to keep, reads it, then gathers with the other children to discuss it with Mayor Tammy and her featured corporate "leader-reader" from the sponsoring company. The Meridian Library District also plays an important role in the book club's success, helping guide book selections and handling sign-ups and logistics.



Making Every Meridian Resident Count

United States
Census
2010

Did you fill out your 2010 Census form and mail it in? A whopping 83% of Meridian residents did, thanks in large part to Meridian's Complete Count Committee. From speaking to local church groups and

service clubs to having an entry in the Christmas parade, this volunteer group of community partners met regularly and found creative ways to educate residents about the importance of the Census and to make sure even the most difficult-to-find people had an opportunity to be counted.



Community Teams Up for Meridian Business Day

Succeeding in today's business environment requires constant knowledge and professional association. With that in mind, local business people have been coming together twice a year at Meridian City Hall for Meridian Business Day — the community's largest networking event designed to help Treasure Valley businesses network, socialize and develop positive business relationships. Started in May 2009, Meridian Business Day continues to draw audiences in the hundreds, as well as keynote speakers and workshop leaders from businesses of all types and sizes eager to present motivating addresses and informational workshops.

Helping Teens Kick Unhealthy Habits

An important part of prevention is providing support to individuals who no longer wish to use or abuse drugs and alcohol. Therefore, the Mayor's Anti-Drug Coalition organized Discover Recovery 12-Step groups in five of Joint School District No. 2's high schools. Members of these groups meet once a week with an adult advisor to learn strategies for clean living and to support one another in the recovery process.

COMPLETED MERIDIAN-AREA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Overland, Linder to Ten Mile – In 2010, Overland Road, between Ten Mile and Linder, was widened and improved with curb, gutter, bike lanes, and sidewalk between Linder Road and Ten Mile Road. This project included realigning Overland to intersect Ten Mile one-half mile south of I-84.

Ten Mile/Overland Intersection – This new signalized intersection accommodates traffic from both the realigned Overland Road project and the new Ten Mile Interchange. It was designed to accommodate the future extension of Overland Road to the west.

Ten Mile, Franklin to Cherry – Completed in late 2010, this project widened Ten Mile Road, between Franklin and Cherry, to 5 lanes and included curb, gutter, sidewalks and bike lanes. Signalization and widening of the Ten Mile/Franklin intersection and the Ten Mile/Pine intersection were also done as part of this \$8 million project.

Eagle Road, I-84 to Fairview – In the summer of 2010, ITD rehabilitated the pavement on Eagle Road between the interstate and Fairview. This project improved the roadway surface and more clearly defined the travel lanes.



ADDITIONAL PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

Several pedestrian improvements were accomplished in 2010. Some of the projects include:

- Installation of an asphalt shoulder on E. 2 ½ Street so children attending Cole Valley Christian School have a safe route.
- Construction of a new pedestrian bridge across Five Mile Creek that connects the adjacent neighborhood to 8th Street Park. This project was completed in 2010 using Community Development Block Grant dollars.
- Installation of pedestrian HAWK signals along Linder Road near Tully Park and Heritage Middle School, and on Victory Road near Eagle, improve safety for students walking to nearby schools.

SPRING OPENING ANTICIPATED FOR TEN MILE INTERCHANGE

Crews have been working long hours — often around the clock — on I-84's new Ten Mile Interchange, and ITD project leaders are confident they will celebrate a spring 2011 opening.



Photo by Idaho Airships — Nov. 2010

Upon completion, the \$33 million GARVEE-funded project will relieve congestion at the existing I-84 Meridian interchange exit and provide local access to the growing area west of Meridian Road.

The new interchange will also improve public safety, providing a vital turn-around point for emergency vehicles responding to accidents on I-84.

Completion of the project is also expected to spur additional development in the area, as it will be a highly visible, easily accessible part of our city that will offer significant future employment, enhanced housing diversity, and support a stronger Meridian economy.

A public celebration of the Ten Mile Interchange's grand opening is tentatively scheduled for midday on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Additional information about this event will be communicated via the City of Meridian website and the *CityNews* newsletter as it becomes available.

- A signal was installed early 2010 at the McMillan/Red Horse Way intersection. This signal was primarily installed to facilitate the safe movement of children across McMillan Road to/from Prospect Elementary. After initial scoping efforts, it was determined that a full signalized intersection was warranted.
- Sidewalk, pedestrian ramps and crosswalks were installed along W. 8th Street, between Cherry Lane and Camelia Lane in 2010. This project was initiated to help children attending Meridian Middle School get to/from school safely.

MERIDIAN TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN PROGRESS



Eagle, Victory to Ridenbaugh Canal – This project includes the widening of Eagle Road beginning at Copper Point Drive, across the Ridenbaugh Canal, and through a rebuilt and signalized Eagle/Victory intersection. A new signal at the Eagle/Easy Jet intersection is also planned for this project. Once complete, Eagle Road, from Victory Road to I-84, will be five lanes wide. Construction on this project began in May 2010 and should be complete in May 2011.

Locust Grove/McMillan Intersection – ACHD is currently widening and signalizing this intersection. Construction began in December and there will be closures and on-and-off detours around this intersection into April. The project should be complete by mid-August 2011.

Ten Mile, I-84 to Overland – Beginning in early 2011, ACHD will widen Ten Mile Road to five lanes between the ITD Ten Mile Interchange and the new, realigned Overland Road intersection. This project includes some modifications to the Overland Ten Mile intersection and improvements of the bridge across the Ridenbaugh Canal. This project should be complete around the same time as the opening of the Ten Mile Interchange – spring 2011.

THE NEXT DECADE OF PROJECTS

The following list is of Meridian-area projects included in the Ada County Highway District's 2012-2016 Five-Year Work Plan and their projected construction years. For details, visit www.achdidaho.org.

Roadways & Intersections in ACHD's Five-Year Work Plan

Pine Avenue & Linder Road Intersection	2012
Franklin Road, Ten Mile Road to Linder Road	2012
Ustick Road & Ten Mile Road Intersection	2012
Meridian Road & Main Street (Split Corridor Phase II)	2013
Ten Mile Road, Cherry Lane to Ustick Road	2014
Ustick Road, Locust Grove Road to Leslie Way	2015
Ten Mile Road & Victory Road Intersection	2015
Ustick Road & Locust Grove Road Intersection	2015
Black Cat Road & Franklin Road Intersection	2015
Black Cat Road & Cherry Lane Intersection	2015
Franklin Road, Black Cat Road to Ten Mile Road	2016

Pathways & Sidewalks in ACHD's Future Plans

Broadway Avenue, West 4th Street / Meridian Road	2013
Carlton Avenue, W. 1st Street / Main Street	2013
Carlton Avenue, W. 8th Street / W. 4th Street	2013
W. 8th Street, Pine Avenue / Carlton Avenue	2013
Washington Avenue, N. West 4th Street / Main Street	2013

THE CITY ENVISIONS FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCAL PATHWAYS

The City of Meridian's Parks and Recreation Commission has created a prioritized wish list of pathway improvements that would enhance the community's pathway system and maximize connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.

Some of the projects the commission feels should be researched for future feasibility include:

- Improvement of Five Mile Creek Pathway as it extends to the Fairview Lake Development
- Connection of the Settlers Creek Pathway at Destiny Cove to the Fothergill Pathway
- Construction of an extension to the Five Mile Creek Pathway between Pine and Fairview
- Support of the Meridian Rail-With-Trail Action Plan, which would create an east-west pathway along the rail corridor
- Extension of a Five Mile Creek Pathway Segment on the north side of Five Mile Creek near Bridgetower Subdivision
- Improvement of the Ridenbaugh Canal Pathway where it crosses Eagle Road near Victory

To learn more about Meridian's pathway system and plans for its future, visit the Parks & Recreation Department on the City of Meridian website at www.meridiacity.org.

OPPORTUNITY MERIDIAN



For the City of Meridian's Economic Excellence Team, the past few years have brought a sharp focus towards job creation, filled with progressive efforts and a continual quest for new business opportunities. Innovative, diversified strategies are the path to continue Meridian's success as a prosperous, competitive, and sustainable growth city.



Visit Meridian's New Economic Development Website

www.opportunitymeridian.org

The Cornerstones of Meridian's Economic Development Strategy

1. Support existing businesses by creating new opportunities for businesses; be more focused on the expansion of existing businesses and create an overall efficient environment in which to do business in.
2. Foster entrepreneurial and technological innovation; Increase existing efforts to reach out and provide assistance to entrepreneurs and new businesses that wish to grow and locate in Meridian. Our forging strategic relationships with small business and entrepreneurial organizations could be a significant contributor to the growth of local businesses.
3. Attract and support new diversified businesses based on our core competencies.
4. Develop Meridian as an economic development driving force that creates dynamic sustainable and synergistic environments through the development of Industrial Corridors and Target Markets
5. Reinvent government; create an efficient environment and establish Meridian as an 'easy' place to do business, where time means money and procedures are streamlined.
6. Create, attract and maintain a globally competitive workforce to meet industry needs and stimulate business development.

MERIDIAN'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS



- Joint School District No. 2
- St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
- Citi
- Blue Cross of Idaho
- City of Meridian
- Albertsons
- Multi-Care Staffing Service
- Idaho Dept. of Law Enforcement
- AES, Inc.
- R.C. Willey Home Furnishings
- Power Engineers
- Idaho Elks Rehab
- Western States Equipment
- Complex Care Hospital of Idaho
- Walmart
- Swire Coca-Cola

Good News!

Overall jobs in Meridian increased from 30,712 in 2009 to 30,888 in 2010. While many industries remained constant, Meridian experienced growth in sectors such as management companies, health care, and a substantial increase in retail due to nationally known stores such as Dick's Sporting Goods and Hobby Lobby opening in the community.

Business News and Notes

Intermountain Gas Company/ MDU Resources Group opened a new Meridian customer service center in May 2010 at the El Dorado Business Park located at 1937 S. Bonito Way. The center is 31,000 square feet with hopes for future expansion. 140 new hires will serve over 950,000 customers for MDU Resources Group, the parent company of Intermountain Gas Co.

Classes have started at **Broadview University's** new Meridian location in Gramercy. This \$6 million, 30,000-square-foot building is equipped with state-of-the art classrooms and labs. Its career-focused programs offer many of Meridian's core competencies, including health, business, paralegal, veterinary technology, and criminal justice. The University has created 25 new jobs and, as the campus grows, projects up to 150. The new campus will contribute to Meridian's goal of increasing graduation rates and creating a competitive workforce.

The Economic Excellence Team has partnered with the **Meridian Chamber of Commerce** to continue its aggressive retention program, visiting various Meridian businesses in order to support business opportunities and develop community business relationships. The Economic Excellence Team, Meridian Chamber staff, and business leader volunteers anticipate engaging 1/3 of targeted industry businesses each year.

SCENTSY: ENJOYING THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS



Scentsy Office Tower Concept Drawing

What began in 2004 in a 40-foot ocean container on a small sheep farm is now an international company that will have its world headquarters and corporate campus located in Meridian.

Scentsy began as a small, family-owned and operated business with close ties among its employees and independent Scentsy consultants. Today, Scentsy is still a family-owned business, but with over 700 employees and 100,000 Scentsy consultants in the U.S., Canada, Guam and Puerto Rico. The Scentsy corporate campus will help preserve the family-like culture that exists among Scentsy employees and consultants, which is a top priority for Scentsy's CEO and President, Orville and Heidi Thompson.

Scentsy, which specializes in wickless candles, ceramic candle warmers, and other fragrance products, has announced exciting plans for a "Scentsy Campus" that will be located west of Eagle Road between Pine Avenue and the railroad tracks. The campus will be built in phases, but construction on the headquarters building was finished in time for an October 2010 open house. Upon completion, the campus will cover 48.83 acres.

The company's operations are currently spread across three locations. The completion of Scentsy's corporate campus will bring all of its operations together west of Eagle Road, including a new Distribution Facility and Office Tower.

Scentsy's new distribution facility is projected to be completed in August 2011. The facility will contain management offices, equating 34,000 square feet, as well as shipping and warehouse departments totaling 159,000 square feet.

Construction of the Office Tower will take place over the next two and a half years. The conceptual Office Tower will equal approximately 157,000 square feet and include colorful corporate offices, an employee cafeteria, and beautiful landscaping to encourage lunches and walks outside, all supporting Scentsy's creative, collaborative culture.

PKG IS EXPANDING!

PKG, an industry-leading designer, developer, and manufacturer of advanced, innovative user interface systems in the medical, avionics, and industrial/instrumentation industries, is expanding its current Meridian-based facilities. PKG is building a new 38,000-square-foot corporate and manufacturing center in the new PineBridge medical/technology business park off Pine Street between Locust Grove and Eagle Roads. PKG is growing and anticipates increasing its existing workforce by 50% over the next 12 to 18 months, especially in engineering and technical jobs. Groundbreaking will occur in February, and PKG expects to move into their new facility in October 2011.



PLANNING FOR A FUTURE PARK

The Borup Property Concepts Plan was formalized and accepted at a meeting of the Meridian City Council in November. Plans for the 30-acre future park site, located near the northwest corner of Cherry Lane and McDermott, tentatively includes softball facilities, a dog park, and potentially a new rodeo facility to house the Lions Club Rodeo, which currently takes place annually at the site. Additional planning and design work will be needed for all park elements prior to selecting a final menu of amenities for the site.

The purpose of this Concepts Plan is to document what ideas are currently on the table for the park, as well as public comments on those ideas. Funds to design the park and prepare construction documents could be available as early as 2013; funds to construct the park may be available as early as 2014. However, this timeline is largely dependent upon development in the area and whether utilities, such as sewer or water, have been extended to the site by that time.

The dog park may move forward sooner, depending on current efforts of the Dog Park Task Force to raise funds for the improvements.



BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE

The City formed a Dog Park Task Force in January 2010 to explore options for a permanent dog park in Meridian. As a result of their hard work and dedication, along with the Meridian Parks and Recreation Commission, the City Council approved for the group to begin fundraising for a future dog park. One of the group's first fundraisers will be a Bark Park Golf Scramble at Lakeview Golf Course. For information about the Dog Park Task Force or future events, contact the Meridian Parks & Recreation Department at 888-3579.



WHAT WILL MERIDIAN BE LIKE IN TEN YEARS?

The City of Meridian's Planning Department, with the assistance of other City departments and input from citizens and business owners, is in the process of reformatting and updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. It's our community's statement of goals and objectives that helps guide growth and development and addresses issues such as land use, transportation, housing, parks and open spaces, infrastructure, public safety, and economic development.

It also provides a community-wide framework for other planning activities integral to life in our city -- including neighborhood and special area plans (such as Destination Downtown and the Ten Mile Specific Area Plan), and plans for specific community facilities and services, such as parks, community centers, or additional police or fire stations.

The intent of this process is to make the Comprehensive Plan more user-friendly and to better reflect the direction the City is heading and what needs to be done to get there. The revisions do not include any changes to the City's Future Land Map. Instead, the reformat and update amends the text of the Plan. Proposed changes to the Plan are based on the policies and community values expressed in the current Plan, as well as the Existing Conditions Report, which contains background information and data on what the City looks like today.

In 2011, the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan. Then staff will prepare an official application to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan. Public hearings will then be held on the proposed amendments at both the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council before any changes are finalized.

DESTINATION: DOWNTOWN

A nearly year-long planning effort called "Destination: Downtown" has created a long-term vision for the revitalization and growth of downtown Meridian's central core.

Together, professional planners, local business people, and other interested residents have laid the conceptual foundation for a multiuse downtown — one that offers a wide array of residential opportunities, private office buildings, entertainment venues, quality dining and shopping options, and public gathering spaces to encourage social interaction and promote economic development.



The plan places special emphasis on community elements relating to livability, mobility, prosperity, and sustainability.

It also identifies five specific sub-areas that may have their own look, feel, and focus and for which a series of "mini" specific area plans may be created.

These areas are the Traditional City Core, Washington & Main District, Neighborhood Preservation Areas, Transit Oriented Development (TOD)/Cultural District, Southern Gateway Entertainment & Hospitality District, and the Northern Gateway District.

The City of Meridian Planning Department will soon pick up where the Destination: Downtown process left off, further clarifying the goals and objectives for these areas of downtown Meridian and applying the appropriate tools consistent with these plans.

To view the results of this effort, go online to <http://destination-downtown.org>.

FIREFIGHTERS AND EMS PROFESSIONALS ENHANCE TRAINING WITH ONLINE VIDEOS

In order to share information and sharpen their skills, Meridian firefighters have produced a series of training videos demonstrating various skills, techniques, scenarios, and protocols vital to their profession.



They've posted these videos online, along with social media links, at www.FireVidz.com.

Firefighters throughout the country can now exchange information and benefit from the contents of the videos.

The website, which is growing in nationwide popularity, features live fire videos, television news footage, training lectures, useful links, and variety of other training resources relevant to these professions.

EXPLORING NEW WAYS TO PUT GIS TO WORK FOR THE CITY



A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer system that captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data linked to specific geographic locations.

At the City of Meridian, GIS is quickly becoming an essential tool used daily to help solve problems, answer questions, and analyze data.

Since March, a GIS team with representatives from all City departments has been meeting to explore and discuss the many ways GIS can be used within the City to promote data sharing, reduce costs, increase efficiency, and improve customer service.

So far, the group has identified 68 projects and work applications which could benefit from GIS technology, ranging from population forecasting to crime mapping to storm water data collection.

KLEINER PARK AND SENIOR CENTER START TO TAKE SHAPE

Construction is well under way on the Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park, which will also house a new Meridian Senior Center to be named the Centre at the Park.

The 60-acre park, near the northeast corner of the Fairview and Eagle Road intersection, will be a densely treed urban park with large water features, rolling terrain, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and lots of open space.

A new 13,800-square-foot senior center will be situated in the northwest corner of Kleiner Park. The new facility will feature state-of-the-art kitchens, plenty of space for activities, and an event center available for rent by the public.

The Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park and Centre on the Park are being made possible through a \$25 million donation from the Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park Trust. The park and senior center both anticipate opening in the fall of 2011.



RECLAIMED WATER IS EARNING RESPECT IN MERIDIAN



The City is making tremendous strides in its plan to put reclaimed water to greater use in Meridian.

In 2008, Meridian became Idaho's first municipality to be issued a Class A Reclaimed Water Permit in order to develop a delivery and irrigation system for using reclaimed water in Heroes Park.

In addition to its reclaimed water irrigation system, Heroes Park now has a reclaimed water interpretive plaza and fountain, and reuse-sourced restrooms. Future park additions will include educational planters, interpretive pathways with drought-tolerant landscaping, and a water-wise demonstration site that will explain the use and advantages of reclaimed water to park visitors.

Since achieving success with its pilot program in Heroes Park, the City has now been granted a "Citywide" Reclaimed Water Permit that will allow additional citywide uses such as dust suppression, toilet flushing, sewer flushing, and fire suppression.

ROCK OF HONOR MEMORIAL WILL HONOR MERIDIAN SERVICE MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

A patriotic group of Meridian men and women are hard at work creating a living memorial to honor the Meridian citizens who have served and died defending our country during wars past and present.

The Rock of Honor Memorial, to be located in Julius M. Kleiner Park, is intended by its planners to be a place of honor where people can congregate, participate, and be educated about the freedoms we as U.S. citizens share.

Up-to-date information about the project can be found online at www.rockofhonor.com.



KEEPING A FINGER ON THE PULSE OF THE COMMUNITY

In order to continue growing and thriving, the City of Meridian knows it must offer a mix of services and benefits that fits the needs of citizens and businesses today while also preparing to serve the needs and expectations of the future.

For this reason, the City of Meridian contracted with Opinion Research Corporation to conduct its first



comprehensive citizen survey during the fall of 2010.

The goal of this study was to design and implement benchmarking and measurement tools for the City to use in an effort to continue its commitment to citizen satisfaction.

The key objectives of the survey were to assess citizen satisfaction with and perceptions of a variety of topics, including (but not limited to) overall quality of life, perceived direction of the City, key city issues, city strengths and weaknesses, quality of city services, and budget priorities. Specifically, the research:

- Identified citizen requirements, expectations, and priorities for services.
- Measured current performance on key quality of life and service metrics..
- Set up the tools with which to measure changes in performance over time.
- Compared key measures with CityMARKS™ Benchmark© standards.
- Determined citizens' priorities for services.

In all, 575 randomly selected Meridian residents, aged 18 or over, completed the survey — 259 via telephone and 316 via the Internet.

The results of this survey, which are online at www.meridiancity.org, will be a useful tool as City leaders seek ways to enhance City services, plan for the future, and maintain good stewardship of the public trust.

WHAT THE CITY SURVEY RESULTS TELL US

Overall, Meridian's rating were relatively consistent across the city with regards to the survey's five key metrics:

1. The overall quality of life in Meridian
2. The direction the city is headed
3. The perceived value of services provided by the city
4. How closely Meridian matches the ideal city
5. The overall quality of services provided by the City of Meridian

Respondents gave the City of Meridian positive ratings for all five key metrics measured in the citywide survey.

- Nearly nine out of ten (89%) residents report that the quality of life in Meridian exceeds or greatly exceeds their expectations.
- More than three out of four (78%) residents report that Meridian is strongly headed or heading in the right direction.
- Just over four out of five (82%) residents say the quality of city services exceeds or greatly exceeds their expectations.
- More than two-thirds (68%) of residents perceive they are definitely or somewhat getting the value of services received for tax dollars paid.
- More than four out of five (85%) residents report that the quality of life is ideal or nearly ideal.

Additional Areas in which Meridian Performed Exceptionally Well:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| A Place to Raise a Family | Quality of Neighborhoods |
| A Place to Live | City Parks |
| Public Safety | Emergency Services |

Residents were given a list of ten spending priorities and were asked to order them in terms of importance for the city for the next two years. The list included: parks and open space; retaining and attracting businesses; public transportation; public safety; community services; visual and performing arts; planning for growth; environmental programs; pathways and bike lanes; planning for growth; and downtown redevelopment.

- Priority One — Retaining and attracting businesses
- Priority Two — Planning for growth

The citywide survey also included an open-ended question asking residents what they feel is the single most important issue facing Meridian. The issues mentioned most often:

1. Traffic
2. The Economy
3. Community Planning

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT - BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Citizen involvement is an essential ingredient for strong local government. The City of Meridian promotes citizen involvement by inviting residents to serve on a variety of boards, commissions, committees, and councils designed to assist City leaders in information gathering and deliberative processes. To learn more, call 888-4433.



Parks & Recreation Commission

Focuses its efforts on park planning, capital improvements, policies, recreation programs, and budget. *Serving: John Nesmith, Creg Steele, Tom LeClaire, Phillip Liddell, Shawn Testin, Michael Martin, Treg Bernt*



Planning & Zoning Commission

Advises on planning policies and goals, major projects issues related to land use, zoning, transportation, and housing issues, as framed by Meridian's Comprehensive Plan. *Serving: Scott Freeman, Steven Yearsley, Michael Rohm, Tom O'Brien, Joe Marshall*



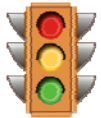
Meridian Arts Commission

Works on arts/cultural policy and promotes public awareness and participation in the arts. *Serving: Meg Glasgow, Nancy Rountree, Rob Walker, David Stolhand, Dwight Williams, Mary Jensen, Megan Murphy*



Historical Preservation Commission

Helps to preserve the character and fabric of historically significant areas and structures within the city of Meridian to honor and preserve its rich heritage for future generations. *Serving: Walter Lindgren, Dr. Tom Hammond, Steve Turney, Dr. Frank Thomason, Carol Harms, Ashley Brown*



Traffic Safety Commission

Researches and recommends city traffic safety issues, actions, and priorities. *Serving: John Wasson, Bill Nary, Tim Curns, Faye Gabriel, Paul Stark, M. Blaine Tewell Jr., Dr. Bruce Gestrin, Chelsea Mason*



Meridian Transportation Task Force

Researches, identifies and prioritizes Meridian's transportation issues and priorities and presents their findings to the City Council. *Serving: David Wynkoop, David Zaremba, Scott Colianni, Keith Bird, Kenny Bowers, Rich Allison, Mayor Tammy de Weerd, Joe Marshall, Miguel Lagarreta, Bob Bruce, Steve Sedlacek, Toni Tisdale, Larry Gardner, Shawn Martin, Don Nesbitt, Caleb Hood*



Impact Fee Committee

Reviews and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding existing and proposed impact fees and fee structures to help ensure that growth pays its own way. *Serving: Tom LeClaire, Gene Strate, David Fulkerson, Mark Bennett, Steve Elliott, Kent Mortensen, Matt Adams*



Solid Waste Advisory Commission

Addresses issues related to solid waste management and community recycling programs. *Serving: Tom Sauer, Robert Corrie, Todd Carlson, Steven Cory, Nancy Mann, Karie Glen, Mollie Mangerich, Andrea Pogue*



BECOME A FACEBOOK FAN OF THE CITY

www.facebook.com/meridancity
www.facebook.com/meridianparksandrecreation
www.facebook.com/meridianee

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