



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING • MINUTES

City Hall Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue, Meridian, Idaho
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 • 5:30 p.m.

The Meridian Parks & Recreation Commission is a volunteer citizens' group that is created and empowered to advise the City on issues relating to park facilities and recreation programs of the City. Their mission is to gather input from staff and other qualified personnel on issues relating to the creation and design of public parks and open spaces; to listen to public input; and to provide advice and recommendations on parks and recreation related matters to the Mayor and City Council.

Roll-Call Attendance

Commission President Jo Greer called the meeting to order at approximately 5:32 p.m. MPR Director Steve Siddoway took roll-call attendance as follows:

<u>X</u> Jo Greer, President	<u>X</u> Mike Medellin
<u>X</u> Keith Bevan, Vice President	<u>X</u> John Nesmith
<u>X</u> Dom Gelsomino	<u>X</u> Mandi Roberts
<u>X</u> Jennifer Bobo	<u>O</u> Brandon Simpson
<u>X</u> Elle Hood	

Others present were: MPR Department staff—Recreation Manager Garrett White and Parks Superintendent Mike Barton; Deputy City Attorney Emily Kane; and Art Thatcher with BerryDunn.

Adoption of the Agenda

Commission President Jo Greer entertained a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Dom Gelsomino moved to approve the agenda. Commission Vice President Keith Bevan seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Approval of the Minutes

1. October 12, 2022 Regular Meeting – Jo Greer

Commission President Jo Greer entertained a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Dom Gelsomino moved to approve the minutes. Commission Vice President Keith Bevan seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Announcements

2. Upcoming Events – Steve Siddoway

MPR Director Steve Siddoway announced the next Coffee with the Mayor on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 from 8-9:30 a.m. at Royal Coffee in The Village at Meridian—3635 E. Longwing Lane, Meridian. This event is free and open to the public.

Old Business ~ NONE

New Business

3. MPR Master Plan Update – Art Thatcher

MPR Director Steve Siddoway introduced Art Thatcher, Manager of BerryDunn. Art Thatcher presented a PowerPoint about the Meridian Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update. Copies of his slides are attached to these meeting minutes. In addition, an electronic draft of the Master Plan Update was provided in the meeting packet. Commissioners were asked to review the draft and provide any feedback to MPR staff by Thursday, December 22. Art will return next month with the final version of the MPR Master Plan Update seeking a formal recommendation and a motion from the Commission to forward on to Council for approval and adoption.

Commission Feedback:

- **John Nesmith** – Will BerryDunn analyze the parts of the city that are not served with pathways and sidewalks and make it a part of their process to give the MPR Department direction? *The City has completed its own Pathways Master Plan. Therefore, BerryDunn staff looked at the plan and reviewed it related to their inventory level of service analysis. They do have some analysis of that within the MPR Master Plan Update and some recommendations for expansion which coincides with the Pathways Master Plan.*
- **Jo Greer** – What are the population numbers based off of in Art's PowerPoint? *They were taken through Esri, the system BerryDunn uses.* She expressed her excitement to see the growth from a few years back to present day in terms of trees to address the lack of shade concern, etc.
- **Jennifer Bobo** – In the final MPR Master Plan Update, will it have the rating for each of the parks for the different amenities? *Yes. The full document will be noted in the appendix.* How many of the parks were classified as a 1? *None of Meridian's parks were classified as a 1 overall; they were scored higher.*

4. 2023 MPR Commissioner Elections – Jo Greer

Commission President Jo Greer reported each year elections are held in December; one for President and the other for Vice President. Essentially, the current Vice President receives an automatic nomination for President. The current Vice President—Keith Bevan—received an automatic nomination for President. There were no other nominations for President. President Greer nominated Mandi Roberts for Vice President. There were no other nominations for Vice President.

President Jo Greer motioned to elect Keith Bevan as President and Mandi Roberts as Vice President of the Meridian Parks & Recreation Commission for 2023. Commissioner Dom Gelsomino moved to elect the Commissioners as noted. Commissioner Jennifer Bobo seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Congratulations to Keith Bevan as the new President and Mandi Roberts as Vice President. The new Commission leadership is effective January 1, 2023.

MPR Director Steve Siddoway thanked Jo Greer for her service as President for two consecutive years!

5. **Brainstorm 2023 All-Commission Goals – Steve Siddoway**

The Commission reviewed the current 2022 MPR All-Commission Goals. In an effort to streamline the process and as a starting point for discussion, draft goals for 2023 were brought forward for consideration and reviewed. MPR Director Steve Siddoway facilitated discussion. There were many changes to the proposed draft goals, and the Commission settled on the following 12 goals:

1. Support the design and construction of Discovery Park Phase 2, including the skate park and bike park.
2. Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on developing projects for future construction.
3. Participate in the design and programming of a new Community Center.
4. Finalize the development of the Comprehensive Park System Master Plan Update and support ongoing implementation.
5. Participate in the partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways. Focus this year on Seasons Park, Ten Mile Trailhub, and Discovery Park.
6. Support future improvements at Lakeview Golf Course, including clubhouse/patio improvements.
7. Pursue improved tools and opportunities to engage citizens and stakeholders.
9. Provide feedback on the design for new playground at Tully Park.
10. Discuss and provide input on efforts to manage operations of the Meridian Pool.
11. Engage other task forces, commissions, entities, and agencies through workshops and other outreach for partnership opportunities.
12. Continue to foster greater Commission involvement/presence in community events whenever appropriate.

Commissioner Dom Gelsomino moved to adopt these 12 goals in this particular order as the Commission's top priorities for 2023. Commissioner Mandi Roberts seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

Workshop ~ NONE

Staff Reports

6. MPR Staff

Director Steve Siddoway reported on the following:

- Christmas – Merry Christmas and happy holidays! The MPR Department has a tradition of giving the Commission a small Christmas gift. The Commissioners each received a

card that evening. Supply chain issues got in the way of having the gifts that evening, which should be delivered soon. The Commission will be notified when the gifts arrive.

Coming out of Covid-19 and being able to do all the Christmas events this year was wonderful. It was amazing to do the parade from the float this year to see the thousands of people who came out to view the parade. MPR staff members are looking at logistics regarding traffic challenges for improvement.

There was a great showing of gifts from City employees and others concerning the Angel Tree at Meridian City Hall for the Salvation Army. He delivered all the gifts to the facility.

Park Superintendent Mike Barton reported on the following:

- Discovery Park Bike Park – He was hoping to come back to the Commission with a revised bike park design at this meeting, but it did not work out. They had to go through some redesign to bring it back within the budget. Therefore, an update will be brought forward at the January 11, 2023 MPR Commission meeting.
- Seasons Park Theming and Identity – MPR staff has something to show. Cassandra Schiffler will make a presentation to the MPR Commission in January 2023.
- Pathways Project Manager - Kim Warren is no longer with the Department. She took a position with the City of Boise in the Planning Department as the new Pathways Program Manager. Her role will be working on a plan similar to Meridian's on putting pathways along canal banks. Her last day was December 2, 2022. The vacant position will open up soon in order to conduct interviews.
- Five Mile Creek Pathway, Segment D – This is the section that runs from McNelis to Quartet Subdivision between Ten Mile and Black Cat. The Department is very close at putting this segment out to bid. They have worked with ACHD to cost share on their portion. A bridge over Nine Mile Creek which will run through the ACHD property and onto the Quartet Subdivision will connect into another bridge that the Department cost shared with Brighton Corporation.
- Rail-With-Trail – This is the trail along the rail corridor from 3rd Street to Broadway. The Department has a scope of work, and staff is negotiating fees with Keller & Associates to kick off design. This is a federal aid project and administered with ITD and LTAC (a local highways transportation authority). They have to also do a property exchange, rezone, etc.
- Pathways Workshop – He hopes to provide an update to the MPR Commission in January/February. The Department has a revised map that shows completed segments, what is in the works, and what has changed.

Recreation Manager Garrett White reported on the following:

- New Community Center – He has been reviewing the RFQs for architectural services for the new community center.
- Mo Brooks Field – He has been working with a group regarding a light pole study for the Mo Brooks ball field in Storey Park in terms of life expectancy.
- MPR Master Plan Update – He has been working with BerryDunn staff and reviewing the draft documents.
- Pool Budget – He is working with Finance regarding the 2022 and 2023 pool budget.
- Process Improvements – He has tasks to improve office efficiencies about shelters, fields, and reservation reports.



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PARKS AND
RECREATION**

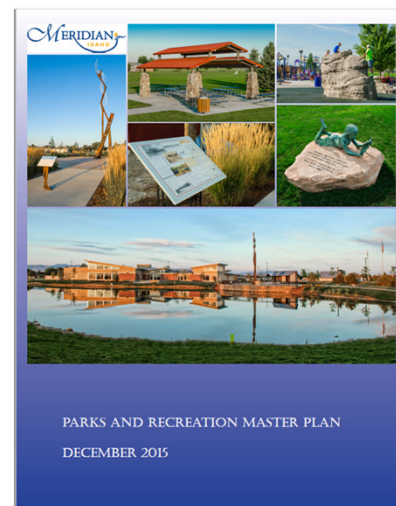
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Parks and Recreation Commission Presentation



Tuesday | December 14, 2022

Master Plan Process

- ✓ Strategic Kick-off: - October 10, 2021
- ✓ Leadership Interviews – October 13-15, 2021
- ✓ Survey – October 2021 – January 2022
- ✓ Community Engagement – November 2021
 - ✓ Focus Groups – November 16-18, 2021
 - ✓ Public Presentation – November 18, 2021
- ✓ Inventory – November 2021
- ✓ Level of Service Analysis – December 2021
- ✓ Findings Presentation – February 23-24, 2022
- ✓ Organizational Assessment – May – October 2022
- ✓ Draft Recommendations Presentation – May 2022
- ✓ **Draft & Final Plan Presentation – December 2022**



Public Engagement

Public Engagement included:

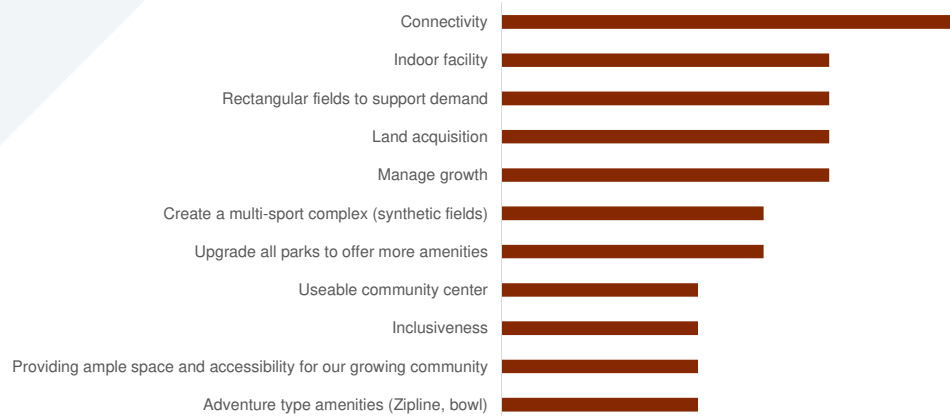
- On site November 16-18, 2021
- 6 focus groups consisting of 39 participants
- Interviews with ten elected officials and stakeholders
- Staff interviews and SWOT Workshop
- Parks & Recreation Commission Briefing
- Tours of parks and facilities
- Open public forum in person and virtually with 18 people in attendance



3

Focus Group Priorities

Priorities



4

Survey Methodology

Primary methods:

1 = Statistically Valid (Invitation Survey)
 Mailed survey with an option to complete online through password protected website.



312 - Invitation Online and Paper surveys completed +/- 5.5% Margin of Error

2 = Open Link Survey

Online survey available to all residents of the City of Meridian.



378 - Open Link Surveys Completed



3,500 Surveys Mailed (3,444 delivered)



Future Needs-Indoor Facilities

Future needs for indoor and outdoor facilities are similar across survey years.

Q 13: What are the the greatest needs for indoor and outdoor facilities to be added, expanded, or improved in Meridian over the next 5 or 10 years? Indoor Facilities:

Rating Category	2021 Survey		2015 Survey	
Community/recreation center	n=273	3.9	n=592	3.7
Indoor aquatics facility	n=268	3.8	n=599	3.8
Fieldhouse/gymnasium space	n=257	3.6	n=582	3.2
Performing arts center	n=265	3.3	n=592	3.2
Ice rink	n=265	3.0	n=587	3.0



Future Needs-Outdoor Facilities

Q 13: What are the the greatest needs for indoor and outdoor facilities to be added, expanded, or improved in Meridian over the next 5 or 10 years? Outdoor Facilities:

Rating Category	2021 Survey		2015 Survey	
Pathways & trails	n=279	4.3	n=601	4.1
Improved park amenities (drinking fountains, restrooms, benches, etc.)	n=278	4.1	n=570	3.8
Shade structures in parks	n=268	4.0	n=586	4.0
Playgrounds	n=255	3.8	n=563	3.7
Lights for outdoor athletic facilities	n=265	3.6	n=561	3.4
New parks	n=162	3.5	n=495	3.2
Parking at recreational facilities	n=177	3.4	n=515	3.1
Splash pads	n=247	3.4	n=554	3.1
Outdoor athletic fields/courts	n=183	3.3	n=543	3.1
Dog parks	n=267	3.3	n=584	3.0
Fishing ponds	n=265	3.2	n=584	3.1
Pickleball courts	n=255	3.0	n=555	2.3
Disc golf	n=246	2.9	n=561	2.6
Public art in the parks	n=252	2.9	n=576	3.1
Exercise stations along trails in parks	n=262	2.9	n=566	3.2
Rodeo/equestrian facility	n=244	2.2	n=564	2.2



Allocation of Funding

Adding more pathways is still a top priority. However, respondents allocated a greater amount to expanding aquatics and expanding programs and services in 2015.

Q 19: With \$5 increments being the smallest amount you might use, if you had \$100 to spend on parks and recreation facilities, services and/or programs, how would you allocate that \$100 across the following categories?

Rating Category	2021 Survey		2015 Survey	
Add more pathways	n=274	\$19.54	n=608	\$17.69
Make improvements and/or renovate and maintain existing park facilities	n=274	\$14.13	n=608	\$12.62
Expand aquatics (indoor or outdoor pool, splash pads, etc.)	n=274	\$13.91	n=608	\$19.44
Add new parks	n=274	\$9.46	n=608	\$8.63
Recreation center, including gym space and related activities	n=274	\$8.43	n=608	\$8.75
New or expanded Community Center (community class/meeting rooms, activity spaces, etc.)	n=274	\$8.23	n=608	\$6.16
Expand programs and activities (more teen programs, senior programs, etc.)	n=274	\$7.58	n=608	\$11.29
Add outdoor athletic fields and courts	n=274	\$7.27	n=608	\$7.14
Other enhancements (please specify below)	n=274	\$6.16	n=608	\$3.27
Provide more City-wide special events	n=274	\$5.30	n=608	\$5.02



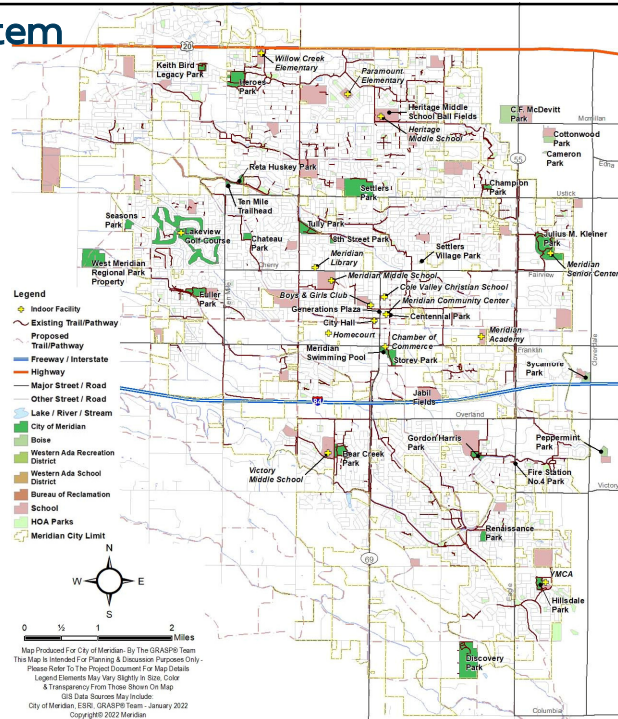
Inventory Summary (HOA and Private Facilities)

Aquatics, Lap Pool	6
Aquatics, Leisure Pool	30
Aquatics, Therapy Pool	1
Basketball Court	9
Basketball, Practice	15
Disc Golf	1
Game Court	1
Horseshoe Court	1
Loop Walk	5
Open Turf	109
Passive Node	6
Playground, Destination	4
Playground, Local	89
Rectangular Field, Multiple	1
Shelter, Large	2
Shelter, Small	49
Tennis Court	5
Volleyball Court	4
Water Feature	1
Water, Open	4

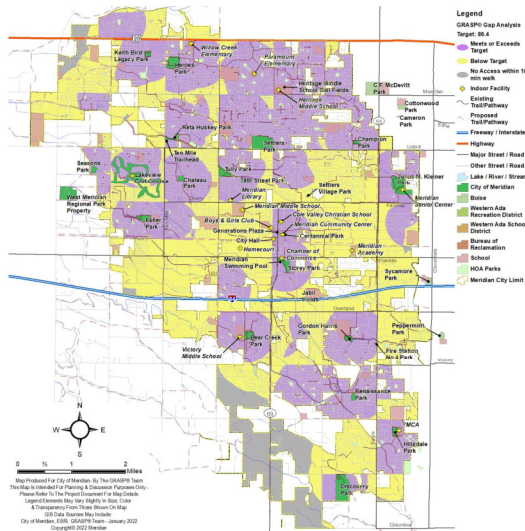
GRASP®: a look back

Year	2022	2015
Population	124,790	94,289
City Limit (Acres)	23,191	18,159
# of Sites (Parks, Facilities, etc.)	25	21
Total # of Components	256	207
Total GRASP® Value (Entire System)	1694	1317
GRASP® Index	14	14
Ave. Score per Site	67.8	62.7
% of Total Area w/LOS >0	97%	98%
Average LOS per Acres Served	179	196
Components Per Capita	2	2
Average LOS/Population Density	33	38
Population Density (per acre)	5.4	5.2
% of Population with Walkable Target Access	68%	50%
People per Park	4992	4490
Park per 1k People	0.20	0.22

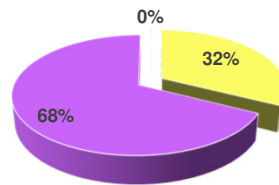
The Meridian System



GRASP® Walkable Access

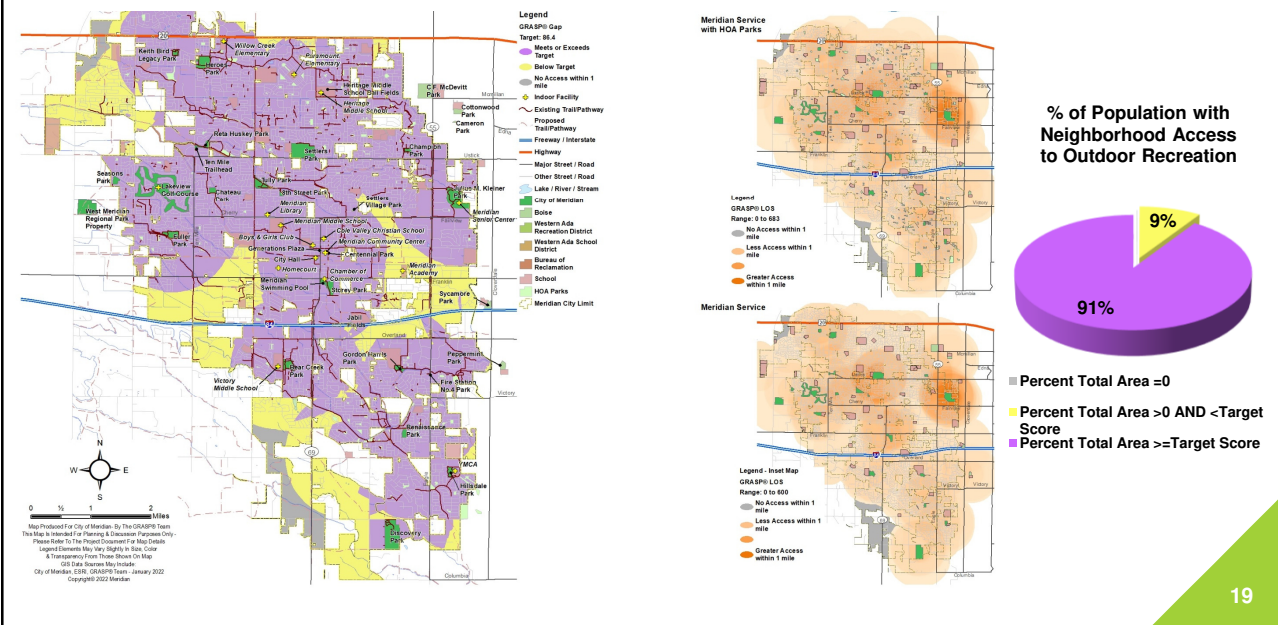


% of Population with Walkable Access to Outdoor Recreation



- Percent Total Area = 0
- Percent Total Area >0 AND <Target Score
- Percent Total Area >=Target Score

GRASP® Neighborhood Access



Recurring Themes

- Continue to create a connected community through pathway development
- Maintain quality of maintenance level of service and funding
- Find future locations for parks to stay ahead of future development and in underserved areas of the community
- Keep up with future changing demographics that comes with growth
- Community center/recreation center are the community's greatest need for indoor facilities
- Pathways and trails are the community's greatest need for outdoor facilities
- Shade and communication are the top 2 areas to address to increase participation
- Email and social media are top 2 best ways to communicate about programs and services



Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Continue to Improve Organizational Efficiencies

Objective 1.1: <i>Maintain existing level of service goal</i>
Objective 1.2: <i>Enhance and improve internal and external communication regarding department activities and services</i>
Objective 1.3: <i>Maintain existing quality standards for facilities and amenities</i>
Objective 1.4: <i>Utilize technology to improve customer service and efficiencies</i>
Objective 1.5: <i>Increase potential partnerships within the community</i>
Objective 1.6: <i>Staff appropriately to meet demand and maintain established quality of service</i>



21

Goals and Objectives

Goal 2: Maintain and Improve Facilities and Amenities

Objective 2.1 <i>Maintain and improve existing facilities</i>
Objective 2.2: <i>Expand pathways and connectivity</i>
Objective 2.3: <i>Add indoor recreation space</i>
Objective 2.4: <i>Develop new amenities at new and existing parks based on level of service analysis</i>
Objective 2.5: <i>Acquire new land for parks</i>
Objective 2.6: <i>Evaluate parking at parks, events, and scheduled activities</i>



22

Goals and Objectives

Goal 2: Maintain and Improve Facilities and Amenities continued

Objective 2.7:

Continue to monitor ADA needs of the community

Objective 2.8:

Upgrade comfort, convenience, and customer service amenities to existing facilities

Objective 2.9:

Create park identity in existing and new parks

Objective 2.10:

Address current and future needs for athletic fields

Objective 2.11:

Consider programming needs when adding new components to existing parks or when developing new parks

Objective 2.12:

Maintain component-based inventory and level of service standards

Objective 2.13:

Continue to maintain life cycle replacement plan



23

Goals and Objectives

Goal 3: Continue to Improve Programs and Service Delivery

Objective 3.1:

Continue to address recreational programming and activity needs of the community

Goal 4: Increase Financial Opportunities

Objective 4.1

Increase special event and activities sponsorships

Objective 4.2:

Evaluate Impact Fee Ordinance

Objective 4.3:

Pursue grant and philanthropic opportunities

Objective 4.4:

Implement a cost recovery and pricing policy



24

Thank You For Your Time & Consideration!



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GreenPlay is now  BerryDunn

