



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MI 2012



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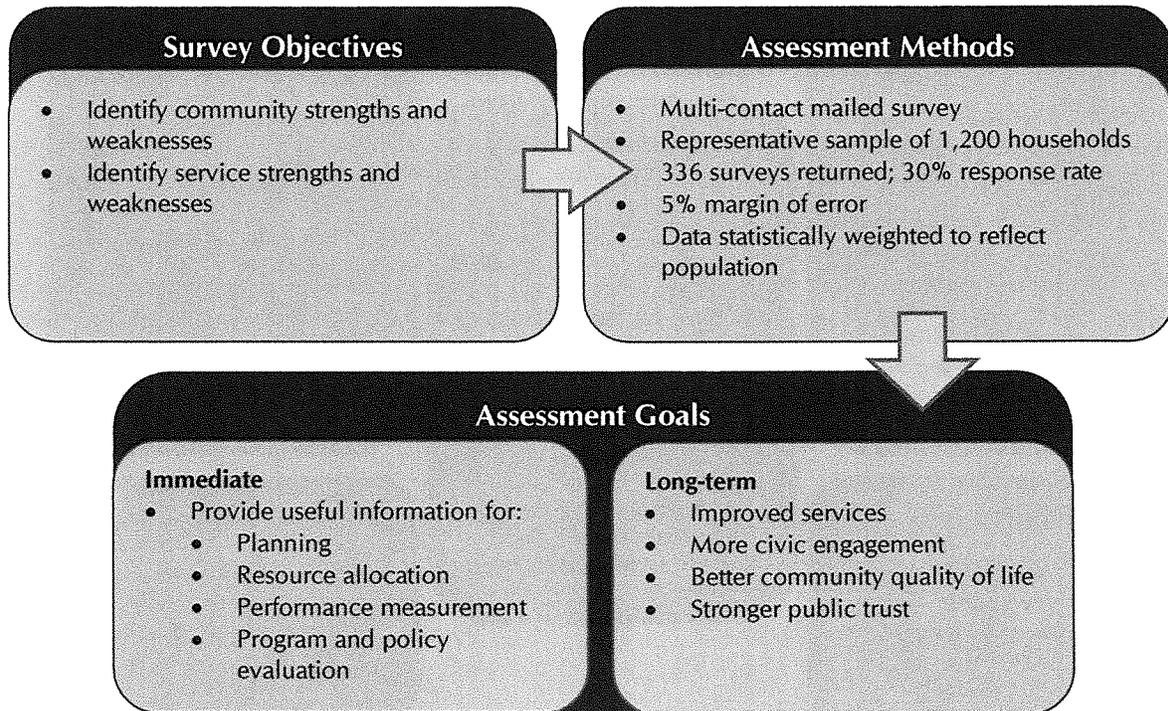
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SURVEY BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The NCS was developed by NRC to provide a statistically valid survey of resident opinions about community and services provided by local government. The survey results may be used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders for community planning and resource allocation, program improvement and policy making.

FIGURE 1: THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™ METHODS AND GOALS



The NCS focuses on a series of community characteristics and local government services, as well as issues of public trust. Resident behaviors related to civic engagement in the community also were measured in the survey.

FIGURE 2: THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™ FOCUS AREAS



The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage-paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community. A total of 336 completed surveys were obtained, providing an overall response rate of 30%. Typically, response rates obtained on citizen surveys range from 25% to 40%.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for Meridian Township was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. Meridian Township staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community issues and provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings. Meridian Township staff also augmented The National Citizen Survey™ basic service through a variety of options including several custom questions.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

As shown in Figure 2, this report is based around respondents' opinions about eight larger categories: community quality, community design, public safety, environmental sustainability, recreation and wellness, community inclusiveness, civic engagement and public trust. Each report section begins with residents' ratings of community characteristics and is followed by residents' ratings of service quality. For all evaluative questions, the percent of residents rating the service or community feature as "excellent" or "good" is presented. To see the full set of responses for each question on the survey, please see Appendix A: Complete Survey Frequencies.

Margin of Error

The margin of error around results for the Meridian Township Survey (336 completed surveys) is plus or minus five percentage points. This is a measure of the precision of your results; a larger number of completed surveys gives a smaller (more precise) margin of error, while a smaller number of surveys yields a larger margin of error. With your margin of error, you may conclude that when 60% of survey respondents report that a particular service is "excellent" or "good," somewhere between 55-65% of all residents are likely to feel that way.

Comparing Survey Results

Certain kinds of services tend to be thought better of by residents in many communities across the country. For example, public safety services tend to be received better than transportation services by residents of most American communities. Where possible, the better comparison is not from one service to another in Meridian Township, but from Meridian Township services to services like them provided by other jurisdictions.

Interpreting Comparisons to Previous Years

This report contains comparisons with prior years' results. In this report, we are comparing this year's data with existing data in the graphs. Differences between years can be considered "statistically significant" if they are greater than seven percentage points. Trend data for your jurisdiction represent important comparison data and should be examined for improvements or declines. Deviations from stable trends over time, especially represent opportunities for understanding how local policies, programs or public information may have affected residents' opinions.

Benchmark Comparisons

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in citizen surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services and gave their opinion about the quality of community life. The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each jurisdiction; most communities conduct surveys every year or in alternating years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant.

Meridian Township chose to have comparisons made to the entire database. A benchmark comparison (the average rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked) has been provided when a similar question on the Meridian Township survey was included in NRC's database and there were at least five jurisdictions in which the question was asked. For most questions compared to the entire dataset, there were more than 100 jurisdictions included in the benchmark comparison.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, the Meridian Township results were generally noted as being “above” the benchmark, “below” the benchmark or “similar” to the benchmark. For some questions – those related to resident behavior, circumstance or to a local problem – the comparison to the benchmark is designated as “more,” “similar” or “less” (for example, the percent of crime victims, residents visiting a park or residents identifying code enforcement as a problem.) In instances where ratings are considerably higher or lower than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of “much,” (for example, “much less” or “much above”). These labels come from a statistical comparison of Meridian Township’s rating to the benchmark.

“Don’t Know” Responses and Rounding

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

For some questions, respondents were permitted to select more than one answer. When the total exceeds 100% in a table for a multiple response question, it is because some respondents did select more than one response. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the customary practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

For more information on understanding The NCS report, please see Appendix B: Survey Methodology.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report of the Meridian Township survey provides the opinions of a representative sample of residents about community quality of life, service delivery, civic participation and unique issues of local interest. A periodic sounding of resident opinion offers staff, elected officials and other stakeholders an opportunity to identify challenges and to plan for and evaluate improvements and to sustain services and amenities for long-term success.

Most residents experienced a good quality of life in Meridian Township and believed the Township was a good place to live. The overall quality of life in Meridian Township was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 87% of respondents. A majority reported they plan on staying in Meridian Township for the next five years.

A variety of characteristics of the community was evaluated by those participating in the study. The two characteristics receiving the most favorable ratings were educational opportunities and the cleanliness of Meridian Township. The characteristic receiving the least positive ratings was employment opportunities.

Ratings of community characteristics were compared to the benchmark database. Of the 25 characteristics for which comparisons were available, 15 were above the national benchmark comparison and 10 were similar to the national benchmark comparison.

Residents in Meridian Township were minimally civically engaged. While only 20% had attended a meeting of local elected public officials or other local public meeting in the previous 12 months, 93% had provided help to a friend or neighbor. Less than half had volunteered their time to some group or activity in Meridian Township, which was lower than the benchmark.

In general, survey respondents demonstrated trust in local government. A majority rated the overall direction being taken by Meridian Township as “good” or “excellent.” This was similar to the benchmark. Those residents who had interacted with an employee of Meridian Township in the previous 12 months gave high marks to those employees. Most rated their overall impression of employees as “excellent” or “good.”

On average, residents gave generally favorable ratings to a majority of local government services. Township services rated were able to be compared to the benchmark database. Of the 31 services for which comparisons were available, 14 were above the benchmark comparison, 12 were similar to the benchmark comparison and five were below.

Respondents were asked to rate how frequently they participated in various activities in Meridian Township. The most popular activities included providing help to a friend or neighbor and visiting a neighborhood or Township park; while the least popular activities were riding a local bus and attending a meeting of local elected officials. Generally, participation rates in the various activities in the community were lower than other communities.

Survey responses were compared to the previous survey iteration. Many services and community characteristics saw increases in their ratings, including street repair, street cleaning, the availability of affordable housing, employment opportunities, storm drainage, education opportunities, services to low-income people and opportunities to volunteer. Some service and characteristic ratings declined, such as bus or transit services, code enforcement, reading of the “Meridian Monitor” Newsletter, and watching meetings of local elected officials.

A Key Driver Analysis was conducted for Meridian Township which examined the relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of the Meridian Township's services overall. Those key driver services that correlated most strongly with residents' perceptions about overall Township service quality have been identified. By targeting improvements in key services, Meridian Township can focus on the services that have the greatest likelihood of influencing residents' opinions about overall service quality. Services found to be influential in ratings of overall service quality from the Key Driver Analysis were:

- ▣ Fire services
- ▣ Recreation programs or classes
- ▣ Public information services

Of these services, those deserving the most attention may be those that were similar to the benchmark comparisons: fire services and public information services. For recreation programs or classes, Meridian Township was above the benchmark and should continue to ensure high quality performance.

COMMUNITY RATINGS

OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY

Overall quality of community life may be the single best indicator of success in providing the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. The National Citizen Survey™ contained many questions related to quality of community life in Meridian Township – not only direct questions about quality of life overall and in neighborhoods, but questions to measure residents’ commitment to Meridian Township. Residents were asked whether they planned to move soon or if they would recommend Meridian Township to others. Intentions to stay and willingness to make recommendations provide evidence that Meridian Township offers services and amenities that work.

Most of Meridian Township’s residents gave high ratings to their neighborhoods and the community as a place to live. Further, most reported they would recommend the community to others and plan to stay for the next five years. Compared to the previous survey year, the number of respondents planning on remaining in Meridian Township for the next five years increased.

FIGURE 3: RATINGS OF OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE BY YEAR

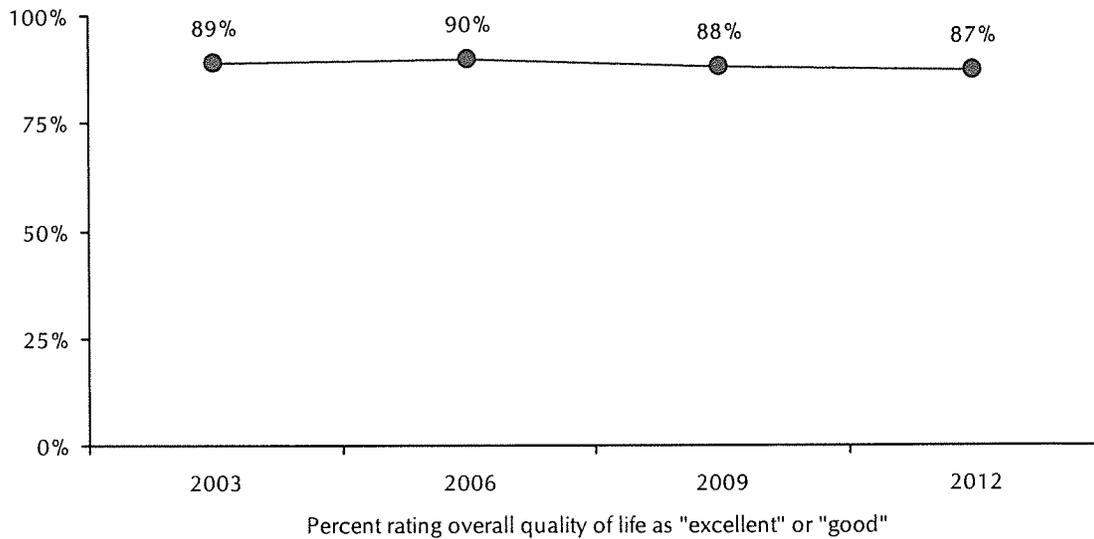


FIGURE 4: RATINGS OF OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| The overall quality of life in Meridian Township | 87% | 88% | 90% | 89% |
| Your neighborhood as a place to live | 84% | 88% | 87% | 88% |
| Meridian Township as a place to live | 93% | 90% | 92% | 91% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 5: LIKELIHOOD OF REMAINING IN COMMUNITY AND RECOMMENDING COMMUNITY BY YEAR

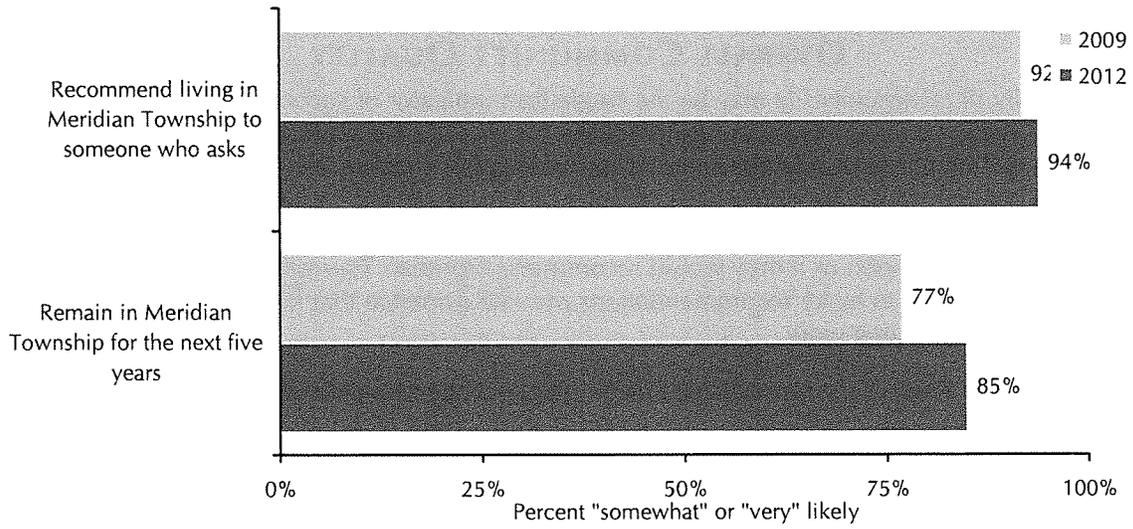


FIGURE 6: OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Overall quality of life in Meridian Township | Above |
| Your neighborhood as place to live | Similar |
| Meridian Township as a place to live | Above |
| Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks | Above |
| Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years | Similar |

COMMUNITY DESIGN

Transportation

The ability to move easily throughout a community can greatly affect the quality of life of residents by diminishing time wasted in traffic congestion and by providing opportunities to travel quickly and safely by modes other than the automobile. High quality options for resident mobility not only require local government to remove barriers to flow but they require government programs and policies that create quality opportunities for all modes of travel.

Residents responding to the survey were given a list of six aspects of mobility to rate on a scale of "excellent," "good," "fair" and "poor." Ease of car travel was given the most positive rating, followed by the availability of paths and walking trails. These ratings tended to be higher than the national benchmark. The ratings for ease of car travel improved from 2009 to 2012.

FIGURE 7: RATINGS OF TRANSPORTATION IN COMMUNITY BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Ease of car travel in Meridian Township | 74% | 64% | 65% | 64% |
| Ease of bus travel in Meridian Township | 56% | 57% | 56% | 60% |
| Ease of bicycle travel in Meridian Township | 59% | 53% | 53% | 54% |
| Ease of walking in Meridian Township | 68% | 65% | 63% | 63% |
| Availability of paths and walking trails | 69% | 63% | NA | NA |
| Traffic flow on major streets | 61% | 55% | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 8: COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Ease of car travel in Meridian Township | Much above |
| Ease of bus travel in Meridian Township | Much above |
| Ease of bicycle travel in Meridian Township | Above |
| Ease of walking in Meridian Township | Similar |
| Availability of paths and walking trails | Above |
| Traffic flow on major streets | Much above |

Seven transportation services were rated in Meridian Township. When compared to other communities across America, ratings tended to be a mix of positive and negative. Bus or transit services were above the benchmark while street repair, street cleaning, street lighting and snow removal were below the benchmark. Sidewalk maintenance and traffic signal timing were similar to the benchmark.

FIGURE 9: RATINGS OF TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Street repair | 26% | 9% | 32% | 32% |
| Street cleaning | 49% | 32% | 47% | 49% |
| Street lighting | 55% | 52% | 51% | NA |
| Snow removal | 49% | 49% | 56% | 58% |
| Sidewalk maintenance | 55% | 54% | 56% | 59% |
| Traffic signal timing | 54% | NA | NA | NA |
| Bus or transit services | 61% | 69% | 64% | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 10: TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Street repair | Much below |
| Street cleaning | Much below |
| Street lighting | Below |
| Snow removal | Much below |
| Sidewalk maintenance | Similar |
| Traffic signal timing | Similar |
| Bus or transit services | Above |

By measuring choice of travel mode over time, communities can monitor their success in providing attractive alternatives to the traditional mode of travel, the single-occupied automobile. When asked how they typically traveled to work, single-occupancy (SOV) travel was the overwhelming mode of use. However, 3% of work commute trips were made by transit, 4% by bicycle and 2% by foot.

FIGURE 11: FREQUENCY OF BUS USE IN LAST 12 MONTHS BY YEAR

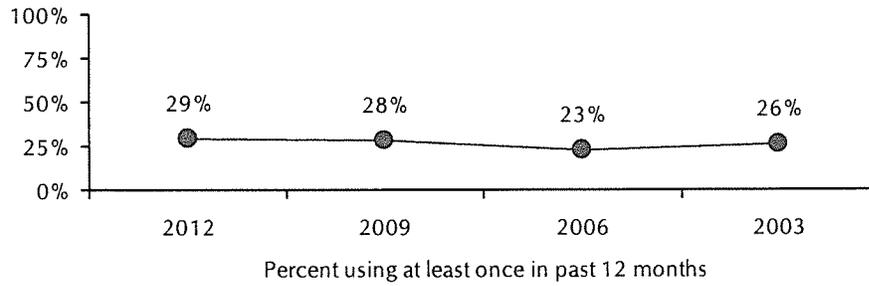


FIGURE 12: FREQUENCY OF BUS USE BENCHMARKS

| Comparison to benchmark | |
|---|------|
| Ridden a local bus within Meridian Township | More |

FIGURE 13: MODE OF TRAVEL USED FOR WORK COMMUTE BY YEAR

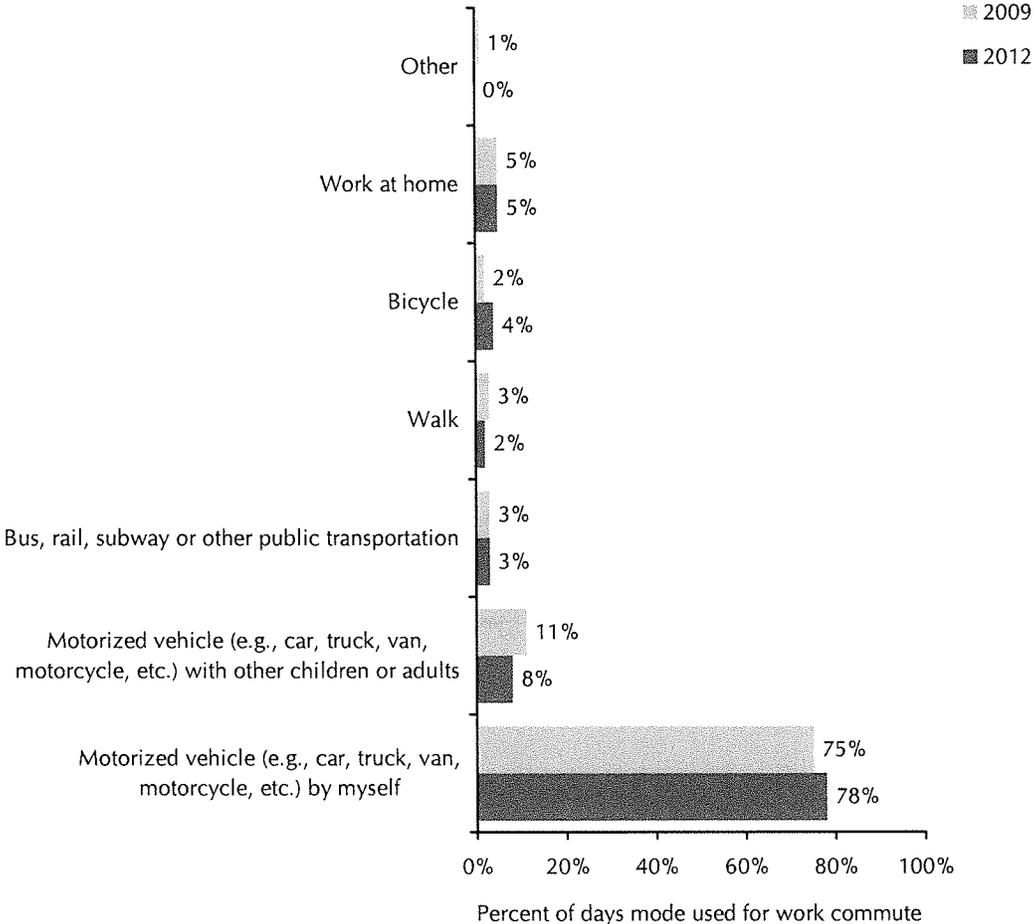


FIGURE 14: DRIVE ALONE BENCHMARKS

| Comparison to benchmark | |
|---|------|
| Average percent of work commute trips made by driving alone | More |

Housing

Housing variety and affordability are not luxuries for any community. When there are too few options for housing style and affordability, the characteristics of a community tilt toward a single group, often of well-off residents. While this may seem attractive to a community, the absence of affordable townhomes, condominiums, mobile homes, single family detached homes and apartments means that in addition to losing the vibrancy of diverse thoughts and lifestyles, the community loses the service workers that sustain all communities – police officers, school teachers, house painters and electricians. These workers must live elsewhere and commute in at great personal cost and to the detriment of traffic flow and air quality. Furthermore lower income residents pay so much of their income to rent or mortgage that little remains to bolster their own quality of life or local business.

The survey of Meridian Township residents asked respondents to reflect on the availability of affordable housing as well as the variety of housing options. The availability of affordable housing was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 61% of respondents, while the variety of housing options was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 70% of respondents. The rating of perceived affordable housing availability was much better in Meridian Township than the ratings, on average, in comparison jurisdictions. Ratings for the availability of affordable quality housing increased over time.

FIGURE 15: RATINGS OF HOUSING IN COMMUNITY BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Availability of affordable quality housing | 61% | 50% | 42% | 40% |
| Variety of housing options | 70% | 63% | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 16: HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Availability of affordable quality housing | Much above |
| Variety of housing options | Much above |

To augment the perceptions of affordable housing in Meridian Township, the cost of housing as reported in the survey was compared to residents’ reported monthly income to create a rough estimate of the proportion of residents of Meridian Township experiencing housing cost stress. About 27% of survey participants were found to pay housing costs of more than 30% of their monthly household income.

FIGURE 17: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS EXPERIENCING HOUSING COST STRESS BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Housing costs 30% or more of income | 27% | 28% | NA | NA |
| Percent of respondents | | | | |

FIGURE 18: HOUSING COSTS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Experiencing housing costs stress (housing costs 30% or MORE of income) | Much less |

Land Use and Zoning

Community development contributes to a feeling among residents and even visitors of the attention given to the speed of growth, the location of residences and businesses, the kind of housing that is appropriate for the community and the ease of access to commerce, green space and residences. Even the community's overall appearance often is attributed to the planning and enforcement functions of the local jurisdiction. Residents will appreciate an attractive, well-planned community. The NCS questionnaire asked residents to evaluate the quality of new development, the appearance of Meridian Township and the speed of population growth. Problems with the appearance of property were rated, and the quality of land use planning, zoning and code enforcement services were evaluated.

The overall quality of new development in Meridian Township was rated as "excellent" by 10% of respondents and as "good" by an additional 46%. The overall appearance of Meridian Township was rated as "excellent" or "good" by 76% of respondents and was similar to the benchmark. When rating to what extent run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles were a problem in Meridian Township, 4% thought they were a "major" problem. The services of land use, planning and zoning and code enforcement were rated similar to the benchmark. Ratings showed a varied pattern when compared to past years.

FIGURE 19: RATINGS OF THE COMMUNITY'S "BUILT ENVIRONMENT" BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township | 56% | 53% | NA | NA |
| Overall appearance of Meridian Township | 76% | 72% | 75% | 80% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 20: BUILT ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Quality of new development in Meridian Township | Similar |
| Overall appearance of Meridian Township | Similar |

FIGURE 21: RATINGS OF POPULATION GROWTH BY YEAR

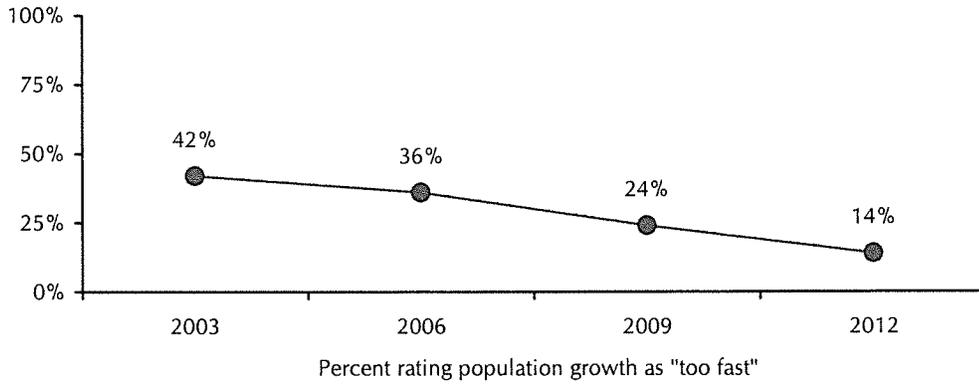


FIGURE 22: POPULATION GROWTH BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Population growth seen as too fast | Much less |

FIGURE 23: RATINGS OF NUISANCE PROBLEMS BY YEAR

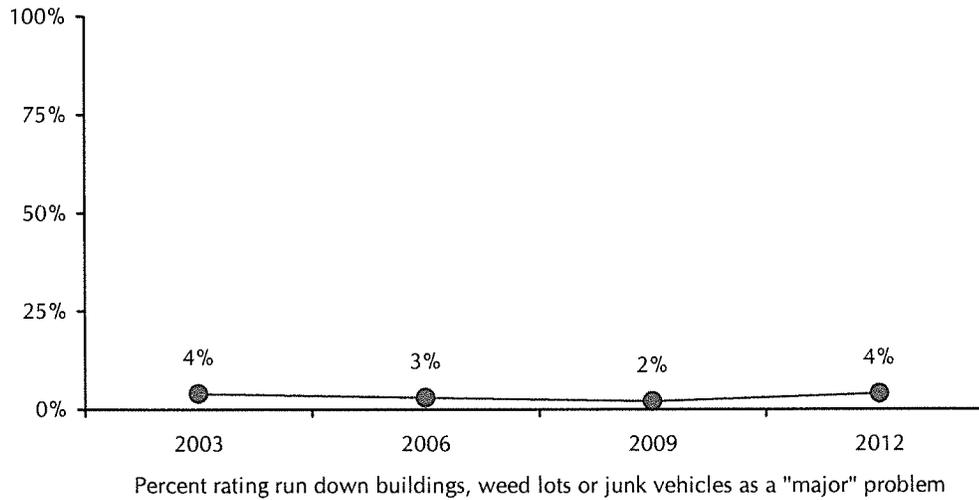


FIGURE 24: NUISANCE PROBLEMS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Run down buildings, weed lots and junk vehicles seen as a "major" problem | Much less |

FIGURE 25: RATINGS OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Land use, planning and zoning | 51% | 47% | 42% | 35% |
| Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.) | 51% | 59% | 63% | 64% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 26: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Land use, planning and zoning | Similar |
| Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.) | Similar |

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The United States has been in recession since late 2007 with an accelerated downturn occurring in the fourth quarter of 2008. Officially we emerged from recession in the third quarter of 2009, but high unemployment lingers, keeping a lid on a strong recovery. Many readers worry that the ill health of the economy will color how residents perceive their environment and the services that local government delivers. NRC researchers have found that the economic downturn has chastened Americans' view of their own economic futures but has not colored their perspectives about community services or quality of life.

Survey respondents were asked to rate a number of community features related to economic opportunity and growth. The most positively rated features were shopping opportunities and the overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township. Receiving the lowest rating was employment opportunities; however ratings for employment opportunities improved from 2009 to 2012.

FIGURE 27: RATINGS OF ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Employment opportunities | 40% | 22% | NA | NA |
| Shopping opportunities | 69% | 71% | 81% | 83% |
| Meridian Township as a place to work | 67% | 66% | 70% | NA |
| Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township | 69% | 69% | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 28: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Employment opportunities | Above |
| Shopping opportunities | Much above |
| Meridian Township as a place to work | Much above |
| Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township | Above |

Residents were asked to evaluate the speed of jobs growth and retail growth on a scale from “much too slow” to “much too fast.” When asked about the rate of jobs growth in Meridian Township, 80% responded that it was “too slow,” while about half reported retail growth as “too slow.” Many more residents in Meridian Township compared to other jurisdictions believed that retail growth was too slow and about the same number of residents believed that jobs growth was too slow.

FIGURE 29: RATINGS OF RETAIL AND JOBS GROWTH BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Retail growth seen as too slow | 52% | 49% | 21% | 18% |
| Jobs growth seen as too slow | 80% | 89% | 74% | 59% |
| Percent of respondents | | | | |

FIGURE 30: RETAIL AND JOB GROWTH BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Retail growth seen as too slow | Much more |
| Jobs growth seen as too slow | Similar |

FIGURE 31: RATINGS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BY YEAR

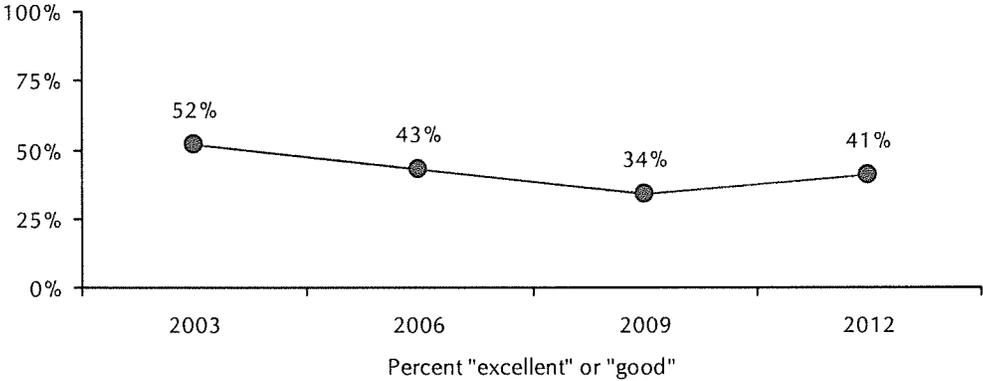


FIGURE 32: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Economic development | Similar |

Residents were asked to reflect on their economic prospects in the near term. Twenty-two percent of Meridian Township residents expected that the coming six months would have a “somewhat” or “very” positive impact on their family. The percent of residents with an optimistic outlook on their household income was the same as comparison jurisdictions.

FIGURE 33: RATINGS OF PERSONAL ECONOMIC FUTURE BY YEAR

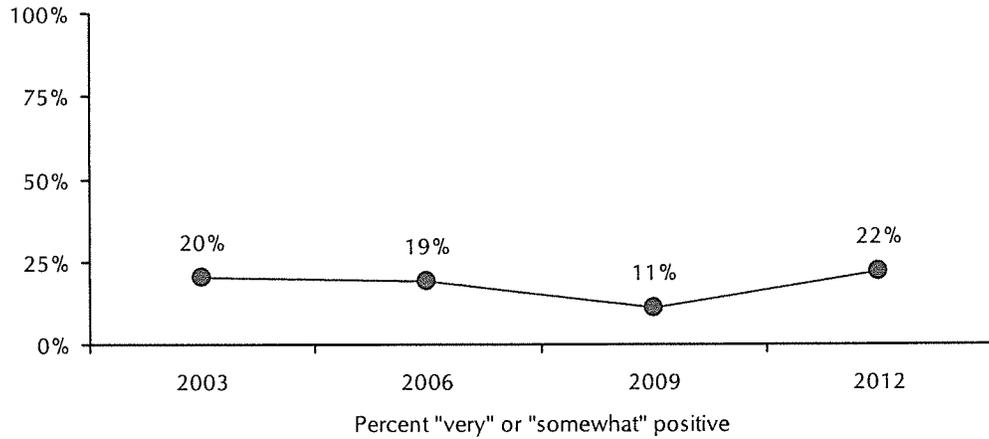


FIGURE 34: PERSONAL ECONOMIC FUTURE BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Positive impact of economy on household income | Similar |

PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety from violent or property crimes creates the cornerstone of an attractive community. No one wants to live in fear of crime, fire or natural hazards, and communities in which residents feel protected or unthreatened are communities that are more likely to show growth in population, commerce and property value.

Residents were asked to rate their feelings of safety from violent crimes, property crimes, fire and environmental dangers and to evaluate the local agencies whose main charge is to provide protection from these dangers. Most gave positive ratings of safety in Meridian Township. About 89% of those completing the questionnaire said they felt "very" or "somewhat" safe from violent crimes and 86% felt "very" or "somewhat" safe from environmental hazards. Daytime sense of safety was better than nighttime safety.

FIGURE 35: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Safety in your neighborhood during the day | 95% | 99% | 97% | 97% |
| Safety in your neighborhood after dark | 84% | 86% | 82% | 88% |
| Safety in Meridian Township's downtown area during the day | 94% | 96% | 93% | 94% |
| Safety in Meridian Township's downtown area after dark | 79% | 78% | 72% | 80% |
| Safety from violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery) | 89% | 91% | 85% | 89% |
| Safety from property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft) | 76% | 79% | 72% | 76% |
| Safety from environmental hazards | 86% | 86% | NA | NA |
| Percent "very" or "somewhat" safe | | | | |

FIGURE 36: COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| In your neighborhood during the day | Above |
| In your neighborhood after dark | Much above |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area during the day | Above |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area after dark | Much above |
| Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery) | Much above |
| Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft) | Much above |
| Environmental hazards, including toxic waste | Much above |

As assessed by the survey, 7% of respondents reported that someone in the household had been the victim of one or more crimes in the past year. Of those who had been the victim of a crime, 94% had reported it to police. Compared to other jurisdictions fewer Meridian Township residents had been victims of crime in the 12 months preceding the survey and many more Meridian Township residents had reported their most recent crime victimization to the police.

FIGURE 37: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| During the past 12 months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime? | 7% | 8% | 8% | 12% |
| If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police? | 94% | 64% | 76% | 65% |
| Percent "yes" | | | | |

FIGURE 38: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Victim of crime | Less |
| Reported crimes | Much more |

Residents rated seven Township public safety services; of these, five were rated above the benchmark comparison and two were rated similar to the benchmark comparison. Ambulance or emergency medical services and fire services received the highest ratings, while traffic enforcement and emergency preparedness received the lowest ratings. Ratings remained stable over time.

FIGURE 39: RATINGS OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Police services | 84% | 91% | 87% | 89% |
| Fire services | 90% | 96% | 96% | 96% |
| Ambulance or emergency medical services | 94% | 97% | 94% | 96% |
| Crime prevention | 81% | 82% | 85% | 83% |
| Fire prevention and education | 82% | 87% | 82% | 86% |
| Traffic enforcement | 72% | 77% | 66% | 75% |
| Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency services) | 59% | 64% | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 40: PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Police services | Above |
| Fire services | Similar |
| Ambulance or emergency medical services | Above |
| Crime prevention | Much above |
| Fire prevention and education | Above |
| Traffic enforcement | Above |
| Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations) | Similar |

FIGURE 41: CONTACT WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT

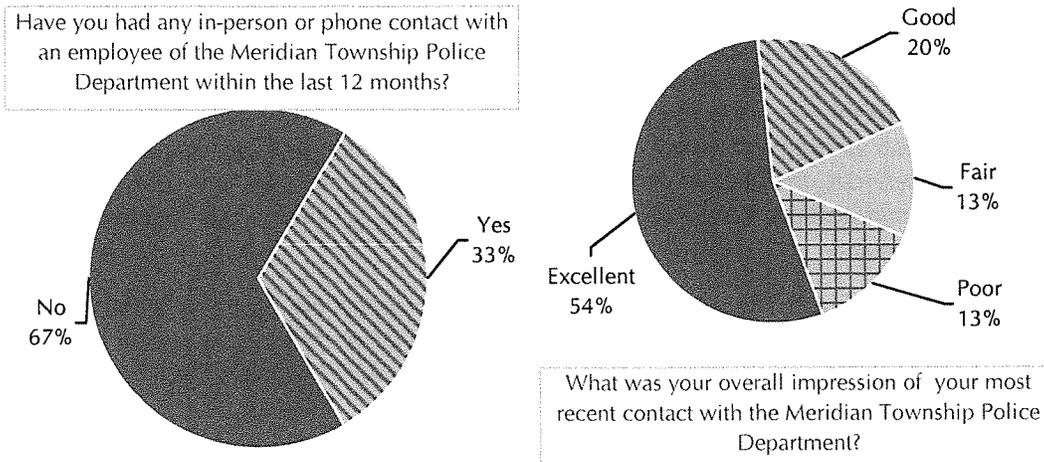


FIGURE 42: CONTACT WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

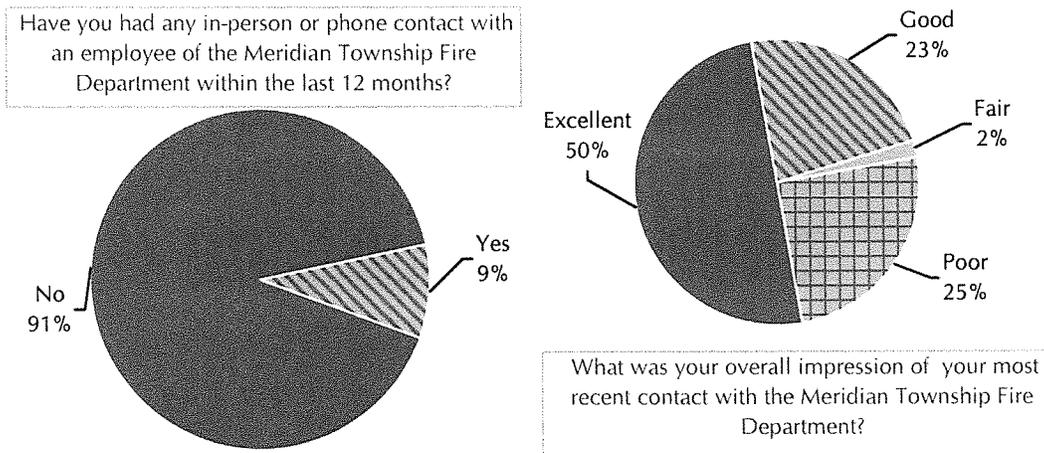


FIGURE 43: CONTACT WITH POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Had contact with the Meridian Township Police Department | Less |
| Overall impression of most recent contact with the Meridian Township Police Department | Above |
| Had contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department | Less |
| Overall impression of most recent contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department | Much below |

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Residents value the aesthetic qualities of their hometowns and appreciate features such as overall cleanliness and landscaping. In addition, the appearance and smell or taste of the air and water do not go unnoticed. These days, increasing attention is paid to proper treatment of the environment. At the same time that they are attending to community appearance and cleanliness, cities, counties, states and the nation are going “Green”. These strengthening environmental concerns extend to recycling, sewer services, the delivery of power and water and preservation of open spaces. Treatment of the environment affects air and water quality and, generally, how habitable and inviting a place appears.

Residents of Meridian Township were asked to evaluate their local environment and the services provided to ensure its quality. The overall quality of the natural environment was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 77% of survey respondents. The cleanliness of Meridian Township received the highest rating, and it was above the benchmark.

FIGURE 44: RATINGS OF THE COMMUNITY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY YEAR

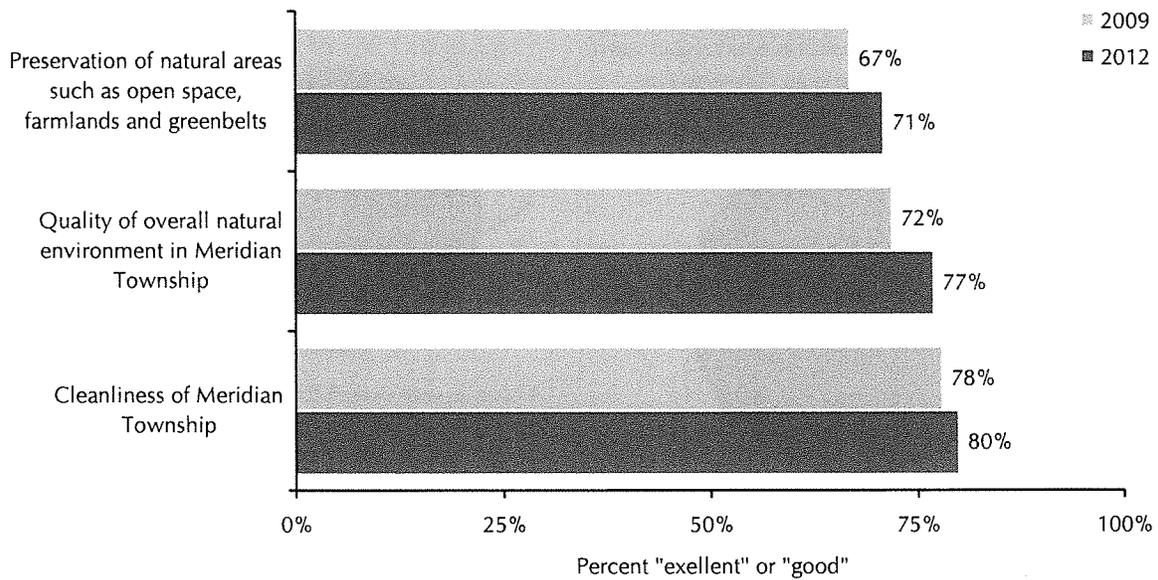


FIGURE 45: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Cleanliness of Meridian Township | Above |
| Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township | Similar |
| Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts | Much above |

Resident recycling was less than recycling reported in comparison communities.

FIGURE 46: FREQUENCY OF RECYCLING IN LAST 12 MONTHS BY YEAR

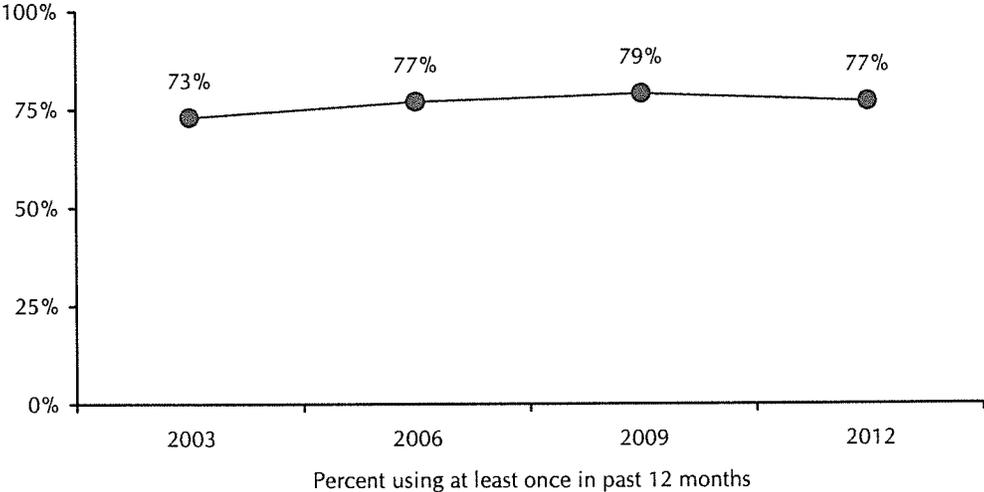


FIGURE 47: FREQUENCY OF RECYCLING BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home | Less |

Of the four utility services rated by those completing the questionnaire, three were higher than the benchmark comparison and one was below the benchmark comparison.

FIGURE 48: RATINGS OF UTILITY SERVICES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Sewer services | 85% | 85% | 79% | 87% |
| Drinking water | 86% | 85% | 74% | 81% |
| Storm drainage | 71% | 59% | 63% | 71% |
| Recycling | 67% | 67% | NA | 53% |

Percent "excellent" or "good"

FIGURE 49: UTILITY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Sewer services | Much above |
| Drinking water | Much above |
| Storm drainage | Above |
| Recycling | Below |

RECREATION AND WELLNESS

Parks and Recreation

Quality parks and recreation opportunities help to define a community as more than the grind of its business, traffic and hard work. Leisure activities vastly can improve the quality of life of residents, serving both to entertain and mobilize good health. The survey contained questions seeking residents' perspectives about opportunities and services related to the community's parks and recreation services.

Recreation opportunities in Meridian Township were rated positively as were services related to parks and recreation. Township parks were rated highly as were recreation programs. Recreation facilities received the lowest rating and were similar to the national benchmark. Parks and recreation ratings have stayed constant over time.

Resident use of Meridian Township parks and recreation facilities tells its own story about the attractiveness and accessibility of those services. The percent of residents that used Meridian Township parks was about the same as the percent of users in comparison jurisdictions. Similarly, recreation program use in Meridian Township was about the same as use in comparison jurisdictions.

FIGURE 50: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR

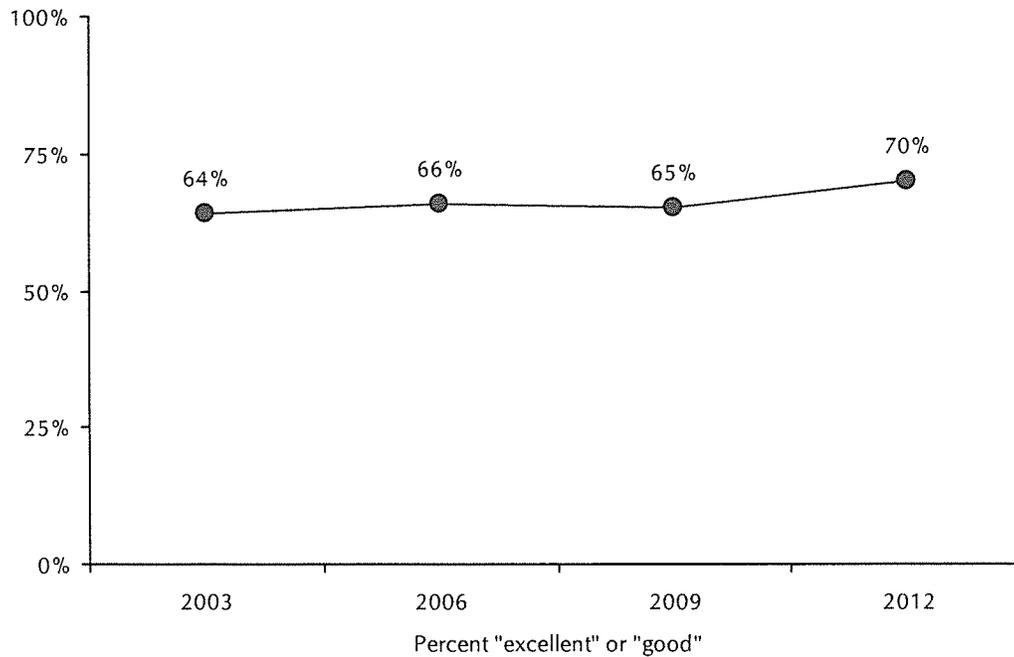


FIGURE 51: COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| Comparison to benchmark | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Recreation opportunities | Above |

FIGURE 52: PARTICIPATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Participated in a recreation program or activity | 46% | 51% | 45% | 44% |
| Visited a neighborhood park or Township park | 87% | 89% | 85% | 90% |
| Percent using at least once in last 12 months | | | | |

FIGURE 53: PARTICIPATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Participated in a recreation program or activity | Similar |
| Visited a neighborhood park or Township park | Similar |

FIGURE 54: RATINGS OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Township parks | 90% | 89% | 88% | 87% |
| Recreation programs or classes | 79% | 83% | 85% | 79% |
| Recreation centers or facilities | 74% | NA | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 55: PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Township parks | Above |
| Recreation programs or classes | Above |
| Recreation centers or facilities | Similar |

Culture, Arts and Education

A full service community does not address only the life and safety of its residents. Like individuals who simply go to the office and return home, a community that pays attention only to the life sustaining basics becomes insular, dreary and uninspiring. In the case of communities without thriving culture, arts and education opportunities, the magnet that attracts those who might consider relocating there is vastly weakened. Cultural, artistic, social and educational services elevate the opportunities for personal growth among residents. In the survey, residents were asked about the quality of opportunities to participate in cultural and educational activities.

Opportunities to attend cultural activities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 56% of respondents. Educational opportunities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 84% of respondents. Compared to the benchmark data, educational opportunities were much above the average of comparison jurisdictions, while cultural activity opportunities were rated similar to the benchmark comparison.

About 69% of Meridian Township residents used a Township library at least once in the 12 months preceding the survey. This participation rate for library use was below comparison jurisdictions. Ratings increased for educational opportunities when compared to the previous survey year.

FIGURE 56: RATINGS OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Opportunities to attend cultural activities | 56% | 50% | 54% | NA |
| Educational opportunities | 84% | 76% | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 57: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Opportunities to attend cultural activities | Similar |
| Educational opportunities | Much above |

FIGURE 58: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services | 69% | 68% | 71% | 62% |
| Percent using at least once in last 12 months | | | | |

FIGURE 59: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services | Less |

FIGURE 60: PERCEPTION OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Public library services | 86% | 84% | 81% | 77% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 61: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Public library services | Similar |

Community Inclusiveness

Diverse communities that include among their residents a mix of races, ages, wealth, ideas and beliefs have the raw material for the most vibrant and creative society. However, the presence of these features alone does not ensure a high quality or desirable space. Surveyed residents were asked about the success of the mix: the sense of community, the openness of residents to people of diverse backgrounds and the attractiveness of Meridian Township as a place to raise children or to retire. They were also questioned about the quality of services delivered to various population subgroups, including older adults, youth and residents with few resources. A community that succeeds in creating an inclusive environment for a variety of residents is a community that offers more to many.

Almost all residents rated Meridian Township as an “excellent” or “good” place to raise kids and a majority rated it as an excellent or good place to retire. Most residents felt that the local sense of community was “excellent” or “good.” About three quarters of survey respondents felt Meridian Township was open and accepting towards people of diverse backgrounds. Meridian Township as a place to retire was rated the lowest by residents, but was similar to the benchmark and trending up over time.

FIGURE 62: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY QUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Sense of community | 66% | 62% | 59% | 58% |
| Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds | 76% | 73% | 68% | 69% |
| Meridian Township as a place to raise children | 91% | 90% | 94% | 89% |
| Meridian Township as a place to retire | 65% | 58% | 58% | 56% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 63: COMMUNITY QUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Sense of community | Similar |
| Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds | Much above |
| Meridian Township as a place to raise kids | Much above |
| Meridian Township as a place to retire | Similar |

Services to more vulnerable populations (e.g., seniors, youth or low-income residents) ranged from 49% to 71% with ratings of “excellent” or “good.” Services to seniors and to youth were above the benchmark while services to low-income people were the same.

FIGURE 64: RATINGS OF QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED FOR POPULATION SUBGROUPS BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Services to seniors | 69% | 73% | 63% | 69% |
| Services to youth | 71% | 77% | NA | NA |
| Services to low-income people | 49% | 41% | 38% | 50% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 65: SERVICES PROVIDED FOR POPULATION SUBGROUPS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Services to seniors | Above |
| Services to youth | Much above |
| Services to low income people | Similar |

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Community leaders cannot run a jurisdiction alone and a jurisdiction cannot run effectively if residents remain strangers with little to connect them. Elected officials and staff require the assistance of local residents whether that assistance comes in tacit approval or eager help; and commonality of purpose among the electorate facilitates policies and programs that appeal to most and causes discord among few. Furthermore, when neighbors help neighbors, the cost to the community to provide services to residents in need declines. When residents are civically engaged, they have taken the opportunity to participate in making the community more livable for all. The extent to which local government provides opportunities to become informed and engaged and the extent to which residents take those opportunities is an indicator of the connection between government and populace. By understanding your residents' level of connection to, knowledge of and participation in local government, the Township can find better opportunities to communicate and educate citizens about its mission, services, accomplishments and plans. This survey information is essential for public communication and for helping local government staff to conceive strategies for reaching reluctant voters whose confidence in government may need boosting prior to important referenda.

Civic Activity

Respondents were asked about the perceived community volunteering opportunities and their participation as citizens of Meridian Township. Survey participants rated the volunteer opportunities in Meridian Township somewhat favorably. Opportunities to attend or participate in community matters were rated similarly.

Ratings of civic engagement opportunities were similar to ratings from comparison jurisdictions where these questions were asked. Compared to the 2009 survey iteration, ratings for opportunities to volunteer increased.

FIGURE 66: RATINGS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

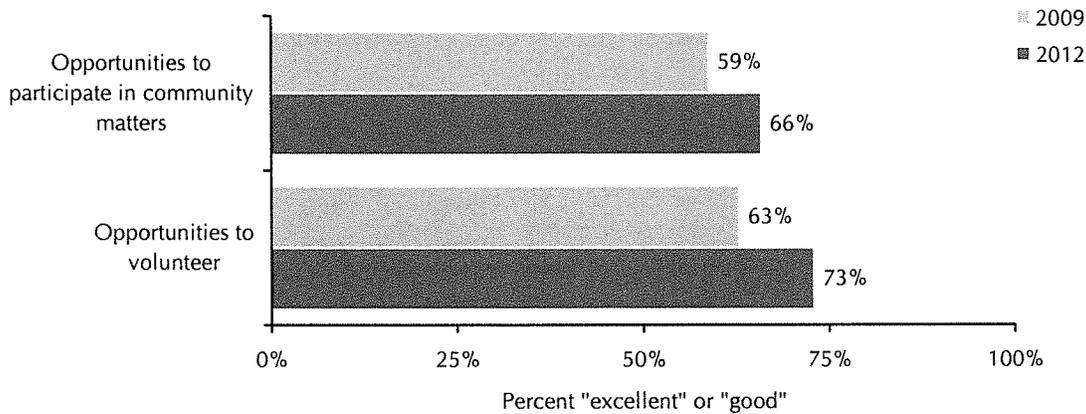


FIGURE 67: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Opportunities to participate in community matters | Similar |
| Opportunities to volunteer | Similar |

Most of the participants in this survey had not attended a public meeting, volunteered time to a group or participated in a club in the 12 months prior to the survey, but the vast majority had helped a friend. The participation rates of these civic behaviors were compared to the rates in other jurisdictions. Providing help to a friend or neighbor showed similar rates of involvement; while attending a meeting of local elected officials, watching a meeting of local elected officials and volunteering time to some group showed lower rates of community engagement.

FIGURE 68: PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR¹

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting | 20% | 20% | 22% | 24% |
| Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media | 34% | 46% | 50% | 51% |
| Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Meridian Township | 32% | 32% | 34% | 35% |
| Provided help to a friend or neighbor | 93% | 90% | NA | NA |
| Percent participating at least once in the last 12 months | | | | |

FIGURE 69: PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting | Less |
| Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media | Less |
| Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Meridian Township | Much less |
| Provided help to a friend or neighbor | Similar |

Meridian Township residents showed the largest amount of civic engagement in the area of electoral participation. Eighty-nine percent reported they were registered to vote and 79% indicated they had voted in the last general election. This rate of self-reported voting was about the same as that of comparison communities.

FIGURE 70: REPORTED VOTING BEHAVIOR BY YEAR²

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Registered to vote | 89% | 94% | 84% | 89% |
| Voted in the last general election | 79% | 93% | 66% | 78% |
| Percent "yes" | | | | |

FIGURE 71: VOTING BEHAVIOR BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Registered to vote | Similar |
| Voted in last general election | Similar |

¹ Over the past few years, local governments have adopted communication strategies that embrace the Internet and new media. In 2010, the question, "Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting on cable television" was revised to include "the Internet or other media" to better reflect this trend.

² Note: In addition to the removal of "don't know" responses, those who said "ineligible to vote" also have been omitted from this calculation. The full frequencies appear in Appendix A.

Information and Awareness

Those completing the survey were asked about their use and perceptions of various information sources and local government media services. When asked whether they had visited Meridian Township Web site in the previous 12 months, 51% reported they had done so at least once. Public information services were rated similarly compared to benchmark data. Compared to the previous year's survey, the number of respondents who reported reading the "Meridian Monitor" Newsletter decreased.

FIGURE 72: USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Read "Meridian Monitor" Newsletter | 62% | 83% | 68% | 67% |
| Visited the Meridian Township Web site (at www.meridian.mi.us) | 51% | 45% | 24% | NA |
| Percent using at least once in last 12 months | | | | |

FIGURE 73: USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Read Meridian Township Newsletter | Much less |
| Visited the Meridian Township Web site | Much less |

FIGURE 74: RATINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDIA SERVICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Cable television | 58% | 58% | 44% | 52% |
| Public information services | 68% | NA | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 75: LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDIA SERVICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cable television | Similar |
| Public information services | Similar |

Social Engagement

Opportunities to participate in social events and activities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 61% of respondents, while even more rated opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities as “excellent” or “good.”

FIGURE 76: RATINGS OF SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY YEAR

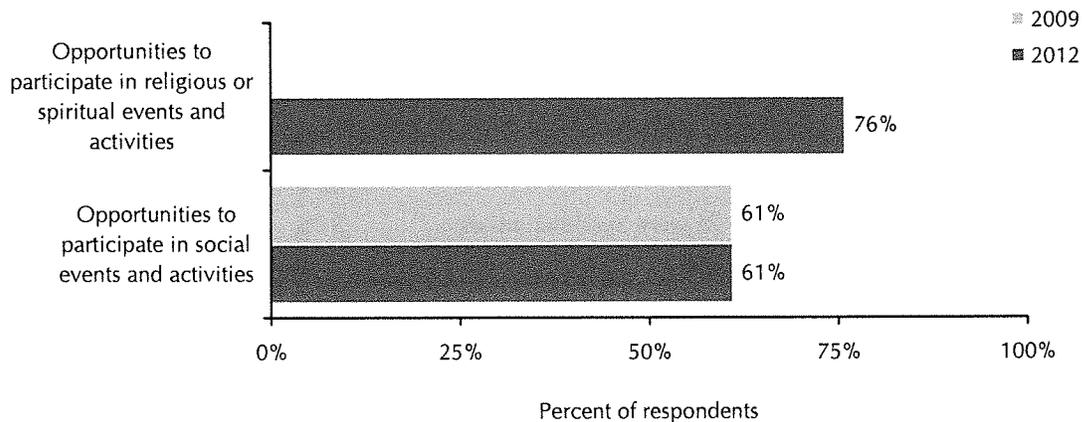


FIGURE 77: SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Opportunities to participate in social events and activities | Similar |
| Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities | Similar |

Residents in Meridian Township reported a fair amount of neighborliness. About half indicated talking or visiting with their neighbors at least several times a week. This amount of contact with neighbors was about the same as the amount of contact reported in other communities.

FIGURE 78: CONTACT WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS BY YEAR

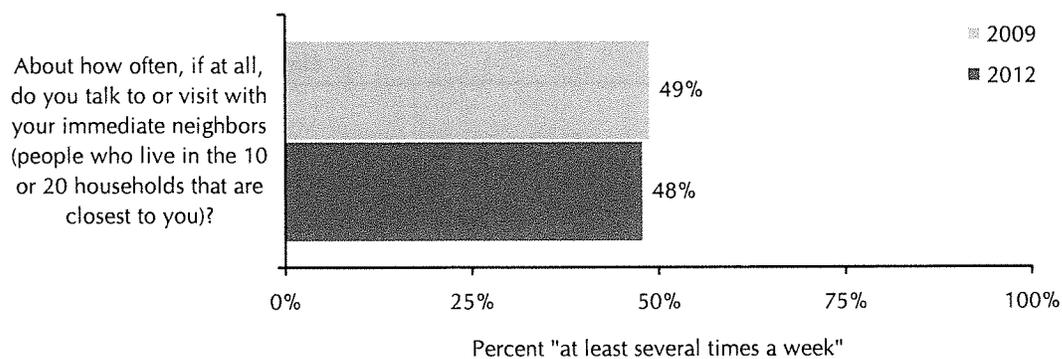


FIGURE 79: CONTACT WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Has contact with neighbors at least several times per week | Similar |

PUBLIC TRUST

When local government leaders are trusted, an environment of cooperation is more likely to surround all decisions they make. Cooperation leads to easier communication between leaders and residents and increases the likelihood that high value policies and programs will be implemented to improve the quality of life of the entire community. Trust can be measured in residents' opinions about the overall direction Meridian Township is taking, their perspectives about the service value their taxes purchase and the openness of government to citizen participation. In addition, resident opinion about services provided by Meridian Township could be compared to their opinion about services provided by the state and federal governments. If residents find nothing to admire in the services delivered by any level of government, their opinions about Meridian Township may be colored by their dislike of what all levels of government provide.

A majority of respondents felt that the value of services for taxes paid was "excellent" or "good." When asked to rate the job Meridian Township does at welcoming citizen involvement, 49% rated it as "excellent" or "good." Of these four ratings, one was above the benchmark and three were similar to the benchmark.

FIGURE 80: PUBLIC TRUST RATINGS BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township* | 57% | 47% | 57% | 59% |
| The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking* | 57% | 48% | 48% | 47% |
| The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement* | 49% | 47% | 56% | 57% |
| Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township | 79% | 76% | NA | NA |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

* For jurisdictions that have conducted The NCS prior to 2008, the change in the wording of response options may cause a decline in the percent of residents who offer a positive perspective on public trust. It is well to factor in the possible change due to question wording this way: if you show an increase, you may have found even more improvement with the same question wording; if you show no change, you may have shown a slight increase with the same question wording; if you show a decrease, community sentiment is probably about stable.

FIGURE 81: PUBLIC TRUST BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--|-------------------------|
| Value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township | Similar |
| The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking | Similar |
| Job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement | Similar |
| Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township | Above |

On average, residents of Meridian Township gave the highest evaluations to their own local government and the lowest average rating to the State Government. The overall quality of services delivered by Meridian Township was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 74% of survey participants. Meridian Township’s rating was similar the benchmark when compared to other communities in the nation. Ratings of overall Township services have generally remained stable over time.

FIGURE 82: RATING OVERALL QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BY YEAR

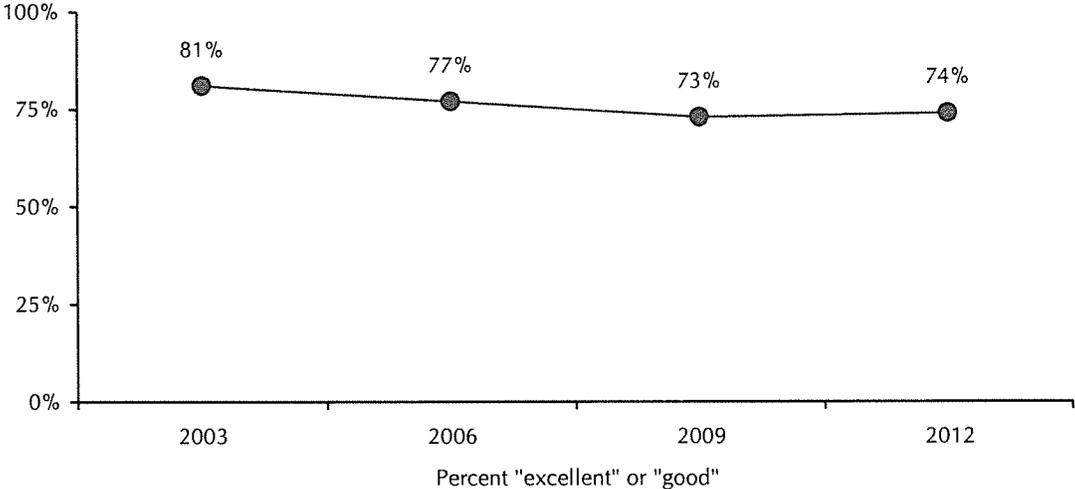


FIGURE 83: RATINGS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|---|------|------|------|------|
| Services provided by Meridian Township | 74% | 73% | 77% | 81% |
| Services provided by the Federal Government | 45% | 39% | 30% | 49% |
| Services provided by the State Government | 42% | 33% | 40% | 52% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 84: SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Services provided by Meridian Township | Similar |
| Services provided by the Federal Government | Above |
| Services provided by the State Government | Similar |
| Services provided by Ingham County Government | Similar |

Meridian Township Employees

The employees of Meridian Township who interact with the public create the first impression that most residents have of Meridian Township. Front line staff who provide information, assist with bill paying, create service schedules, fight fires and crime and even give traffic tickets are the collective face of Meridian Township. As such, it is important to know about residents' experience talking with that "face." When employees appear to be knowledgeable, responsive and courteous, residents are more likely to feel that any needs or problems may be solved through positive and productive interactions with Meridian Township staff.

Those completing the survey were asked if they had been in contact with a Township employee either in-person, over the phone or via email in the last 12 months; the 46% who reported that they had been in contact (a percent that is lower than the benchmark comparison) were then asked to indicate overall how satisfied they were with the employee in their most recent contact. Township employees were rated highly; 80% of respondents rated their overall impression as "excellent" or "good." Employees ratings were higher than the national benchmark and were similar than past survey years.

FIGURE 85: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD CONTACT WITH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS BY YEAR

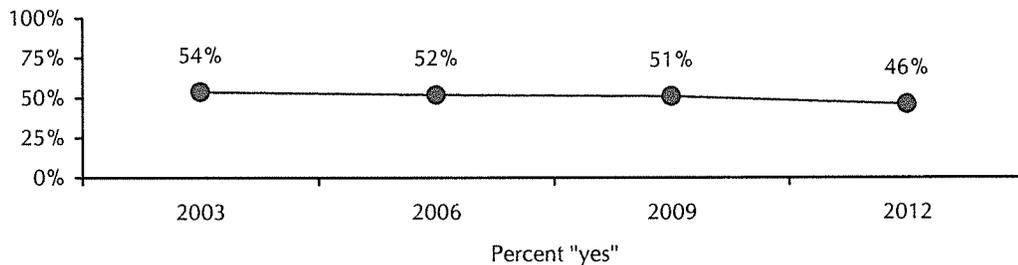


FIGURE 86: CONTACT WITH TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|---|-------------------------|
| Had contact with Township employee(s) in last 12 months | Less |

FIGURE 87: RATINGS OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES (AMONG THOSE WHO HAD CONTACT) BY YEAR

| | 2012 | 2009 | 2006 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Knowledge | 83% | 84% | 87% | 88% |
| Responsiveness | 82% | 82% | 84% | 85% |
| Courtesy | 81% | 83% | 83% | 86% |
| Overall impression | 80% | 82% | 84% | 83% |
| Percent "excellent" or "good" | | | | |

FIGURE 88: RATINGS OF TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES (AMONG THOSE WHO HAD CONTACT) BENCHMARKS

| | Comparison to benchmark |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Knowledge | Similar |
| Responsiveness | Above |
| Courteousness | Above |
| Overall impression | Much above |

FROM DATA TO ACTION

RESIDENT PRIORITIES

Knowing where to focus limited resources to improve residents' opinions of local government requires information that targets the services that are most important to residents. However, when residents are asked what services are most important, they rarely stray beyond core services – those directed to save lives and improve safety.

In market research, identifying the most important characteristics of a transaction or product is called Key Driver Analysis (KDA). The key drivers that are identified from that analysis do not come from asking customers to self-report which service or product characteristic most influenced their decision to buy or return, but rather from statistical analyses of the predictors of their behavior. When customers are asked to name the most important characteristics of a good or service, responses often are expected or misleading – just as they can be in the context of a citizen survey. For example, air travelers often claim that safety is the primary consideration in their choice of an airline, yet key driver analysis reveals that frequent flier perks or in-flight entertainment predicts their buying decisions.

In local government core services – like fire protection – invariably land at the top of the list created when residents are asked about the most important local government services. And core services are important. But by using KDA, our approach digs deeper to identify the less obvious, but more influential services that are most related to residents' ratings of overall quality of local government services. Because services focused directly on life and safety remain essential to quality government, it is suggested that core services should remain the focus of continuous monitoring and improvement where necessary – but monitoring core services or asking residents to identify important services is not enough.

A KDA was conducted for Meridian Township by examining the relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of Meridian Township's overall services. Those Key Driver services that correlated most highly with residents' perceptions about overall Township service quality have been identified. By targeting improvements in key services, Meridian Township can focus on the services that have the greatest likelihood of influencing residents' opinions about overall service quality. Because a strong correlation is not the same as a cause, there is no guarantee that improving ratings on key drivers necessarily will improve ratings. What is certain from these analyses is that key drivers are good predictors of overall resident opinion and that the key drivers presented may be useful focus areas to consider for enhancement of overall service ratings.

Services found to be most strongly correlated with ratings of overall service quality from the Meridian Township Key Driver Analysis were:

- ☛ Fire services
- ☛ Public information services
- ☛ Recreation programs or classes

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ACTION CHART™

The 2012 Meridian Township Action Chart™ on the following page combines three dimensions of performance:

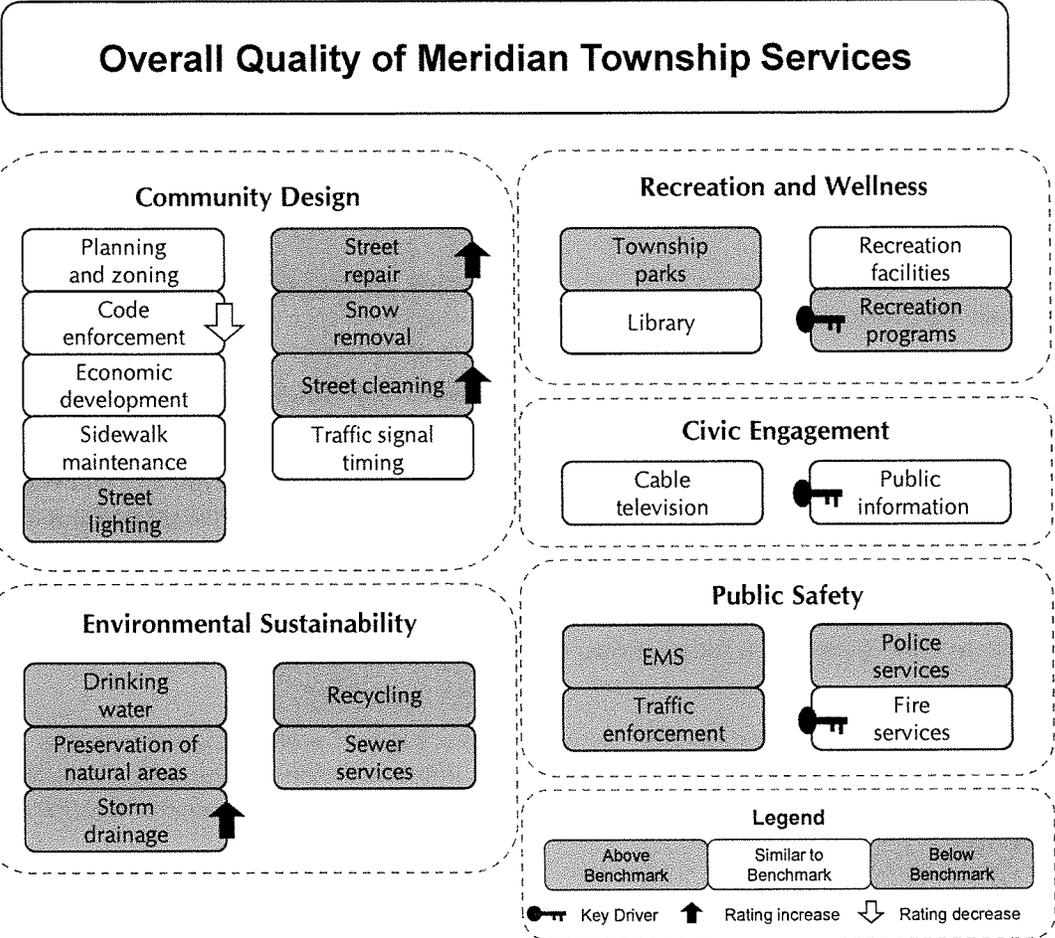
- ▣ Comparison to resident evaluations from other communities. When a comparison is available, the background color of each service box indicates whether the service is above the national benchmark (green), similar to the benchmark (yellow) or below the benchmark (red).
- ▣ Identification of key services. A black key icon (🔑) next to a service box indicates it as a key driver for the Township.
- ▣ Trendline icons (up and down arrows), indicating whether the current ratings are higher or lower than the previous survey.

Twenty-four services were included in the KDA for Meridian Township. Of these, nine were above the benchmark, five were below the benchmark and 10 were similar to the benchmark.

Considering all performance data included in the Action Chart, a jurisdiction typically will want to consider improvements to any key driver services that are trending down or that are not at least similar to the benchmark. In the case of Meridian Township, no key drivers were below the benchmark or trending lower in the current survey. Therefore, Meridian Township may wish to seek improvements to fire services and public information services, as these key drivers received ratings similar to other benchmark jurisdictions. More detail about interpreting results can be found in the next section.

Services with a high percent of respondents answering “don’t know” were excluded from the analysis and were considered services that would be less influential. See Appendix A: Complete Survey Frequencies, Frequencies Including “Don’t Know” Responses for the percent “don’t know” for each service.

FIGURE 89: MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ACTION CHART™



Using Your Action Chart™

The key drivers derived for Meridian Township provide a list of those services that are uniquely related to overall service quality. Those key drivers are marked with the symbol of a key in the action chart. Because key driver results are based on a relatively small number of responses, the relationships or correlations that define the key drivers are subject to more variability than is seen when key drivers are derived from a large national dataset of resident responses. To benefit Meridian Township, NRC lists the key drivers derived from tens of thousands of resident responses from across the country. This national list is updated periodically so that you can compare your key drivers to the key drivers from the entire NRC dataset. Where your locally derived key drivers overlap national key drivers, it makes sense to focus even more strongly on your keys. Similarly, when your local key drivers overlap your core services, there is stronger argument to make for attending to your key drivers that overlap with core services.

As staff review key drivers, not all drivers may resonate as likely links to residents' perspectives about overall service quality. For example, in Meridian Township, planning and zoning and police services may be obvious links to overall service delivery (and each is a key driver from our national database), since it could be easy for staff to see how residents' view of overall service delivery could be colored by how well they perceive police and land use planning to be delivered. But animal control could be a surprise. Before rejecting a key driver that does not pass the first test of conventional wisdom, consider whether residents' opinions about overall service quality could reasonably be influenced by this unexpected driver. For example, in the case of animal control, was there a visible case of violation prior to the survey data collection? Do Meridian Township residents have different expectations for animal control than what current policy provides? Are the rare instances of violation serious enough to cause a word of mouth campaign about service delivery?

If, after deeper review, the "suspect" driver still does not square with your understanding of the services that could influence residents' perspectives about overall service quality (and if that driver is not a core service or a key driver from NRC's national research), put action in that area on hold and wait to see if it appears as a key driver the next time the survey is conducted.

In the following table, we have listed your key drivers, core services and the national key drivers and we have indicated (in **bold** typeface and with the symbol "●"), Meridian Township key drivers that overlap core services or the nationally derived keys. In general, key drivers below the benchmark may be targeted for improvement. Additionally, we have indicated (with the symbol "○") those services that neither are local nor national key drivers nor are they core services. It is these services that could be considered first for resource reductions.

FIGURE 90: KEY DRIVERS COMPARED

| Service | Meridian Township Key Drivers | National Key Drivers | Core Services |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Police services | | ✓ | ✓ |
| • Fire services | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Ambulance and emergency medical services | | | ✓ |
| ◦ Traffic enforcement | | | |
| Street repair | | | ✓ |
| ◦ Street cleaning | | | |
| ◦ Street lighting | | | |
| ◦ Snow removal | | | |
| ◦ Sidewalk maintenance | | | |
| ◦ Traffic signal timing | | | |
| ◦ Recycling | | | |
| Storm drainage | | | ✓ |
| Drinking water | | | ✓ |
| Sewer services | | | ✓ |
| ◦ Township parks | | | |
| Recreation programs or classes | ✓ | | |
| ◦ Recreation centers or facilities | | | |
| Land use planning and zoning | | ✓ | |
| Code enforcement | | | ✓ |
| Economic development | | ✓ | |
| ◦ Public library | | | |
| • Public information services | ✓ | ✓ | |
| ◦ Cable television | | | |
| ◦ Preservation of natural areas | | | |

- Key driver overlaps with national and or core services
- Service may be targeted for reductions it is not a key driver or core service

CUSTOM QUESTIONS

| Custom Question 1 | |
|---|------------------------|
| About how many times, if ever, did you visit the Farmers' Market in 2011? | Percent of respondents |
| Never | 30% |
| Once or twice | 23% |
| 3 to 12 times | 34% |
| 13 to 26 times | 10% |
| More than 26 times | 2% |
| Total | 100% |

| Custom Question 2 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Please indicate how much you would support or oppose the following: | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Total |
| Make no changes to the location of the Farmers' Market | 29% | 45% | 19% | 7% | 100% |
| Moving the Farmers' Market to an alternate location (i.e. Meridian Mall Parking Lot) | 19% | 34% | 28% | 18% | 100% |
| Eliminating the adjacent soccer field to the West and expanding the building and parking area with the added space | 16% | 32% | 30% | 22% | 100% |

| Custom Question 3 | |
|--|------------------------|
| Moving or expanding the Farmers' Market could result in increased taxes. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a tax increase to fund the expansion or relocation of the Farmers' Market: | Percent of respondents |
| Strongly support | 8% |
| Somewhat support | 25% |
| Somewhat oppose | 27% |
| Strongly oppose | 40% |
| Total | 100% |

| Custom Question 4 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Please indicate how much you support or oppose the Meridian Township government encouraging more public art in the following places | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Total |
| On public property (i.e. parks, public buildings) | 40% | 40% | 11% | 8% | 100% |
| On private property | 28% | 43% | 18% | 12% | 100% |

| Custom Question 5 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| In the last 12 months, about how many times if any, have you or other household members used the following: | Never | Once or twice | 3 to 12 times | 13 to 26 times | More than 26 times | Total |
| Off road pathways in Meridian Township | 37% | 28% | 14% | 10% | 10% | 100% |
| Trails in Township parks | 32% | 34% | 15% | 9% | 10% | 100% |

| Custom Question 6 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose the following in Meridian Township: | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Total |
| Using existing utility easements for construction of new off-road pathways | 32% | 52% | 9% | 7% | 100% |
| Increasing the number of Township off-road pathways | 31% | 48% | 15% | 6% | 100% |

APPENDIX A: COMPLETE SURVEY FREQUENCIES

FREQUENCIES EXCLUDING "DON'T KNOW" RESPONSES

| Question 1: Quality of Life | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township: | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| Meridian Township as a place to live | 35% | 57% | 6% | 2% | 100% |
| Your neighborhood as a place to live | 37% | 48% | 14% | 2% | 100% |
| Meridian Township as a place to raise children | 41% | 50% | 7% | 2% | 100% |
| Meridian Township as a place to work | 23% | 44% | 25% | 8% | 100% |
| Meridian Township as a place to retire | 21% | 44% | 25% | 10% | 100% |
| The overall quality of life in Meridian Township | 27% | 60% | 11% | 2% | 100% |

| Question 2: Community Characteristics | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole: | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| Sense of community | 21% | 45% | 29% | 5% | 100% |
| Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds | 21% | 55% | 17% | 7% | 100% |
| Overall appearance of Meridian Township | 17% | 59% | 21% | 3% | 100% |
| Cleanliness of Meridian Township | 25% | 56% | 18% | 2% | 100% |
| Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township | 10% | 46% | 35% | 9% | 100% |
| Variety of housing options | 14% | 56% | 27% | 4% | 100% |
| Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township | 15% | 54% | 26% | 5% | 100% |
| Shopping opportunities | 23% | 46% | 23% | 8% | 100% |
| Opportunities to attend cultural activities | 15% | 41% | 33% | 12% | 100% |
| Recreational opportunities | 20% | 50% | 25% | 5% | 100% |
| Employment opportunities | 4% | 35% | 39% | 22% | 100% |
| Educational opportunities | 34% | 50% | 13% | 3% | 100% |
| Opportunities to participate in social events and activities | 15% | 46% | 34% | 5% | 100% |
| Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities | 22% | 53% | 20% | 4% | 100% |
| Opportunities to volunteer | 22% | 51% | 25% | 2% | 100% |
| Opportunities to participate in community matters | 18% | 48% | 31% | 3% | 100% |
| Ease of car travel in Meridian Township | 21% | 53% | 19% | 7% | 100% |
| Ease of bus travel in Meridian Township | 17% | 39% | 28% | 16% | 100% |
| Ease of bicycle travel in Meridian Township | 16% | 43% | 30% | 11% | 100% |
| Ease of walking in Meridian Township | 19% | 49% | 21% | 11% | 100% |
| Availability of paths and walking trails | 23% | 47% | 23% | 8% | 100% |

| Question 2: Community Characteristics | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole: | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| Traffic flow on major streets | 10% | 50% | 31% | 8% | 100% |
| Availability of affordable quality housing | 9% | 51% | 32% | 8% | 100% |
| Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township | 21% | 56% | 21% | 2% | 100% |
| Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township | 19% | 60% | 18% | 3% | 100% |

| Question 3: Growth | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Meridian Township over the past 2 years: | Much too slow | Somewhat too slow | Right amount | Somewhat too fast | Much too fast | Total |
| Population growth | 4% | 19% | 64% | 10% | 3% | 100% |
| Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.) | 13% | 40% | 38% | 7% | 2% | 100% |
| Jobs growth | 26% | 53% | 18% | 2% | 1% | 100% |

| Question 4: Code Enforcement | |
|---|------------------------|
| To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Meridian Township? | Percent of respondents |
| Not a problem | 23% |
| Minor problem | 53% |
| Moderate problem | 20% |
| Major problem | 4% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 5: Community Safety | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Meridian Township: | Very safe | Somewhat safe | Neither safe nor unsafe | Somewhat unsafe | Very unsafe | Total |
| Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery) | 51% | 38% | 9% | 2% | 0% | 100% |
| Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft) | 26% | 50% | 12% | 12% | 0% | 100% |
| Environmental hazards, including toxic waste | 50% | 36% | 10% | 5% | 0% | 100% |

| Question 6: Personal Safety | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel: | Very safe | Somewhat safe | Neither safe nor unsafe | Somewhat unsafe | Very unsafe | Total |
| In your neighborhood during the day | 78% | 18% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 100% |
| In your neighborhood after dark | 43% | 42% | 10% | 6% | 0% | 100% |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area during the day | 71% | 23% | 5% | 1% | 1% | 100% |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area after dark | 35% | 44% | 13% | 8% | 0% | 100% |

| Question 7: Contact with Police Department | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Police Department within the last 12 months? | No | Yes | Total |
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Police Department within the last 12 months? | 67% | 33% | 100% |

| Question 8: Ratings of Contact with Police Department | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Police Department? | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Police Department? | 54% | 20% | 13% | 13% | 100% |

| Question 9: Crime Victim | |
|--|------------------------|
| During the past 12 months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 93% |
| Yes | 7% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 10: Crime Reporting | |
|---|------------------------|
| If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 6% |
| Yes | 94% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 11: Resident Behaviors | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Meridian Township? | Never | Once or twice | 3 to 12 times | 13 to 26 times | More than 26 times | Total |
| Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services | 31% | 23% | 20% | 14% | 12% | 100% |
| Participated in a recreation program or activity | 54% | 27% | 14% | 3% | 2% | 100% |
| Visited a neighborhood park or Township park | 13% | 24% | 36% | 16% | 11% | 100% |
| Ridden a local bus within Meridian Township | 71% | 13% | 8% | 1% | 6% | 100% |
| Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting | 80% | 15% | 4% | 1% | 0% | 100% |
| Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other Township-sponsored public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media | 66% | 21% | 10% | 2% | 1% | 100% |
| Read Meridian Township Newsletter | 38% | 34% | 23% | 3% | 2% | 100% |
| Visited the Meridian Township Web site (at www.meridian.mi.us) | 49% | 19% | 24% | 5% | 3% | 100% |
| Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home | 23% | 9% | 18% | 14% | 36% | 100% |
| Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Meridian Township | 68% | 16% | 10% | 2% | 3% | 100% |
| Provided help to a friend or neighbor | 7% | 27% | 41% | 15% | 10% | 100% |

| Question 12: Neighborliness | |
|---|------------------------|
| About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)? | Percent of respondents |
| Just about everyday | 22% |
| Several times a week | 27% |
| Several times a month | 22% |
| Less than several times a month | 30% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 13: Service Quality | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township: | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| Police services | 39% | 44% | 12% | 4% | 100% |
| Fire services | 46% | 45% | 7% | 3% | 100% |
| Ambulance or emergency medical services | 49% | 45% | 5% | 1% | 100% |
| Crime prevention | 26% | 55% | 15% | 4% | 100% |
| Fire prevention and education | 31% | 51% | 14% | 4% | 100% |
| Traffic enforcement | 19% | 53% | 21% | 7% | 100% |
| Street repair | 4% | 21% | 38% | 37% | 100% |
| Street cleaning | 8% | 41% | 35% | 16% | 100% |
| Street lighting | 10% | 45% | 29% | 15% | 100% |
| Snow removal | 12% | 37% | 33% | 18% | 100% |
| Sidewalk maintenance | 10% | 45% | 37% | 8% | 100% |
| Traffic signal timing | 7% | 47% | 30% | 16% | 100% |
| Bus or transit services | 16% | 45% | 29% | 10% | 100% |
| Recycling | 28% | 39% | 19% | 14% | 100% |
| Storm drainage | 16% | 55% | 24% | 5% | 100% |
| Drinking water | 34% | 52% | 11% | 3% | 100% |
| Sewer services | 29% | 56% | 13% | 2% | 100% |
| Township parks | 35% | 55% | 9% | 1% | 100% |
| Recreation programs or classes | 26% | 53% | 20% | 1% | 100% |
| Recreation centers or facilities | 20% | 54% | 24% | 2% | 100% |
| Land use, planning and zoning | 8% | 43% | 36% | 14% | 100% |
| Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.) | 11% | 40% | 34% | 16% | 100% |
| Economic development | 6% | 35% | 42% | 17% | 100% |
| Services to seniors | 22% | 47% | 26% | 5% | 100% |
| Services to youth | 21% | 49% | 26% | 3% | 100% |
| Services to low-income people | 16% | 33% | 33% | 17% | 100% |
| Public library services | 40% | 46% | 11% | 3% | 100% |
| Public information services | 21% | 48% | 26% | 6% | 100% |
| Cable television | 15% | 43% | 26% | 16% | 100% |
| Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations) | 14% | 45% | 32% | 9% | 100% |
| Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts | 22% | 49% | 25% | 4% | 100% |

| Question 14: Government Services Overall | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following? | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| Meridian Township | 20% | 54% | 22% | 4% | 100% |
| The Federal Government | 6% | 38% | 40% | 15% | 100% |
| The State Government | 7% | 35% | 45% | 13% | 100% |
| Ingham County Government | 9% | 42% | 39% | 11% | 100% |

| Question 15: Recommendation and Longevity | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following: | Very likely | Somewhat likely | Somewhat unlikely | Very unlikely | Total |
| Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks | 53% | 41% | 3% | 3% | 100% |
| Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years | 59% | 26% | 4% | 11% | 100% |

| Question 16: Impact of the Economy | |
|--|------------------------|
| What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be: | Percent of respondents |
| Very positive | 3% |
| Somewhat positive | 17% |
| Neutral | 48% |
| Somewhat negative | 26% |
| Very negative | 6% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 17: Contact with Fire Department | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Fire Department within the last 12 months? | No | Yes | Total |
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Fire Department within the last 12 months? | 91% | 9% | 100% |

| Question 18: Ratings of Contact with Fire Department | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department? | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department? | 50% | 23% | 2% | 25% | 100% |

| Question 19: Contact with Township Employees | |
|---|------------------------|
| Have you had any in-person, phone or email with an employee of Meridian Township within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 54% |
| Yes | 46% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 20: Township Employees | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| What was your impression of the employee(s) of Meridian Township in your most recent contact? | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| Knowledge | 46% | 36% | 7% | 10% | 100% |
| Responsiveness | 48% | 34% | 10% | 8% | 100% |
| Courtesy | 53% | 27% | 11% | 9% | 100% |
| Overall impression | 51% | 29% | 11% | 9% | 100% |

| Question 21: Government Performance | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|-------|
| Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance: | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Total |
| The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township | 12% | 44% | 29% | 14% | 100% |
| The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking | 10% | 47% | 33% | 10% | 100% |
| The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement | 13% | 37% | 37% | 14% | 100% |

| Question 22a: Custom Question 1 | |
|---|------------------------|
| About how many times, if ever, did you visit the Farmers' Market in 2011? | Percent of respondents |
| Never | 30% |
| Once or twice | 23% |
| 3 to 12 times | 34% |
| 13 to 26 times | 10% |
| More than 26 times | 2% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 22b: Custom Question 2 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Please indicate how much you would support or oppose the following: | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Total |
| Moving the Farmers' Market to an alternate location (i.e. Meridian Mall Parking Lot) | 19% | 34% | 28% | 18% | 100% |
| Eliminating the adjacent soccer field to the West and expanding the building and parking area with the added space | 16% | 32% | 30% | 22% | 100% |
| Make no changes to the location of the Farmers' Market | 29% | 45% | 19% | 7% | 100% |

| Question 22c: Custom Question 3 | |
|--|------------------------|
| Moving or expanding the Farmers' Market could result in increased taxes. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a tax increase to fund the expansion or relocation of the Farmers' Market: | Percent of respondents |
| Strongly support | 8% |
| Somewhat support | 25% |
| Somewhat oppose | 27% |
| Strongly oppose | 40% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question 22d: Custom Question 4 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Please indicate how much you support or oppose the Meridian Township government encouraging more public art in the following places: | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Total |
| On private property | 28% | 43% | 18% | 12% | 100% |
| On public property (i.e. parks, public buildings) | 40% | 40% | 11% | 8% | 100% |

| Question 22e: Custom Question 5 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| In the last 12 months, about how many times if any, have you or other household members used the following: | Never | Once or twice | 3 to 12 times | 13 to 26 times | More than 26 times | Total |
| Off road pathways in Meridian Township | 37% | 28% | 14% | 10% | 10% | 100% |
| Trails in Township parks | 32% | 34% | 15% | 9% | 10% | 100% |

| Question 22f: Custom Question 6 | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose the following in Meridian Township: | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Total |
| Increasing the number of Township off-road pathways | 31% | 48% | 15% | 6% | 100% |
| Using existing utility easements for construction of new off-road pathways | 32% | 52% | 9% | 7% | 100% |

| Question D1: Employment Status | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Are you currently employed for pay? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 33% |
| Yes, full-time | 53% |
| Yes, part-time | 14% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D2: Mode of Transportation Used for Commute | |
|--|---------------------------|
| During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below? | Percent of days mode used |
| Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc.) by myself | 78% |
| Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc.) with other children or adults | 8% |
| Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation | 3% |
| Walk | 2% |
| Bicycle | 4% |
| Work at home | 5% |
| Other | 0% |

| Question D3: Length of Residency | |
|---|------------------------|
| How many years have you lived in Meridian Township? | Percent of respondents |
| Less than 2 years | 18% |
| 2 to 5 years | 20% |
| 6 to 10 years | 12% |
| 11 to 20 years | 20% |
| More than 20 years | 29% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D4: Housing Unit Type | |
|---|------------------------|
| Which best describes the building you live in? | Percent of respondents |
| One family house detached from any other houses | 57% |
| House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome) | 4% |
| Building with two or more apartments or condominiums | 38% |
| Mobile home | 0% |
| Other | 1% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D5: Housing Tenure (Rent/Own) | |
|---|------------------------|
| Is this house, apartment or mobile home... | Percent of respondents |
| Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment | 38% |
| Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear | 62% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D6: Monthly Housing Cost | |
|--|------------------------|
| About how much is the monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)? | Percent of respondents |
| Less than \$300 per month | 3% |
| \$300 to \$599 per month | 17% |
| \$600 to \$999 per month | 40% |
| \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month | 18% |
| \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month | 16% |
| \$2,500 or more per month | 5% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D7: Presence of Children in Household | |
|---|------------------------|
| Do any children 17 or under live in your household? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 73% |
| Yes | 27% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D8: Presence of Older Adults in Household | |
|--|------------------------|
| Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 73% |
| Yes | 27% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D9: Household Income | |
|--|------------------------|
| How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.) | Percent of respondents |
| Less than \$24,999 | 21% |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 | 16% |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 28% |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 22% |
| \$150,000 or more | 12% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D10: Ethnicity | |
|--|------------------------|
| Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino? | Percent of respondents |
| No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | 97% |
| Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | 3% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D11: Race | |
|---|------------------------|
| What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.) | Percent of respondents |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 0% |
| Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander | 12% |
| Black or African American | 3% |
| White | 85% |
| Other | 2% |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option

| Question D12: Age | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| In which category is your age? | Percent of respondents |
| 18 to 24 years | 9% |
| 25 to 34 years | 23% |
| 35 to 44 years | 15% |
| 45 to 54 years | 16% |
| 55 to 64 years | 15% |
| 65 to 74 years | 13% |
| 75 years or older | 9% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D13: Gender | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| What is your sex? | Percent of respondents |
| Female | 54% |
| Male | 46% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D14: Registered to Vote | |
|--|------------------------|
| Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 10% |
| Yes | 86% |
| Ineligible to vote | 4% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D15: Voted in Last General Election | |
|--|------------------------|
| Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 20% |
| Yes | 74% |
| Ineligible to vote | 6% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D16: Has Cell Phone | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Do you have a cell phone? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 3% |
| Yes | 97% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D17: Has Land Line | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Do you have a land line at home? | Percent of respondents |
| No | 45% |
| Yes | 55% |
| Total | 100% |

| Question D18: Primary Phone | |
|---|------------------------|
| If you have both a cell phone and a land line, which do you consider your primary telephone number? | Percent of respondents |
| Cell | 18% |
| Land line | 65% |
| Both | 17% |
| Total | 100% |

FREQUENCIES INCLUDING “DON’T KNOW” RESPONSES

These tables contain the percentage of respondents for each response category as well as the “n” or total number of respondents for each category, next to the percentage.

| Question 1: Quality of Life | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------------|-----|-------|------|
| Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township: | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Meridian Township as a place to live | 35% | 117 | 57% | 189 | 5% | 18 | 2% | 6 | 0% | 1 | 100% |
| Your neighborhood as a place to live | 36% | 120 | 47% | 156 | 14% | 45 | 2% | 6 | 0% | 1 | 100% | 329 |
| Meridian Township as a place to raise children | 36% | 118 | 44% | 143 | 7% | 22 | 1% | 5 | 12% | 39 | 100% | 327 |
| Meridian Township as a place to work | 15% | 50 | 30% | 96 | 17% | 54 | 5% | 18 | 33% | 109 | 100% | 326 |
| Meridian Township as a place to retire | 17% | 54 | 34% | 111 | 19% | 63 | 7% | 25 | 23% | 75 | 100% | 328 |
| The overall quality of life in Meridian Township | 26% | 87 | 59% | 196 | 11% | 36 | 2% | 6 | 1% | 4 | 100% | 330 |

| Question 2: Community Characteristics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|----|------------|----|-------|------|
| Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole: | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Sense of community | 20% | 65 | 43% | 139 | 28% | 89 | 5% | 16 | 4% | 14 | 100% |
| Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds | 19% | 63 | 50% | 163 | 16% | 52 | 6% | 20 | 10% | 33 | 100% | 330 |
| Overall appearance of Meridian Township | 17% | 56 | 59% | 192 | 21% | 69 | 3% | 10 | 1% | 2 | 100% | 328 |
| Cleanliness of Meridian Township | 24% | 79 | 55% | 179 | 17% | 56 | 2% | 7 | 1% | 4 | 100% | 326 |
| Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township | 8% | 28 | 40% | 131 | 31% | 100 | 8% | 26 | 13% | 41 | 100% | 326 |
| Variety of housing options | 13% | 42 | 52% | 169 | 25% | 81 | 4% | 11 | 7% | 24 | 100% | 327 |
| Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township | 15% | 49 | 53% | 173 | 25% | 82 | 5% | 16 | 2% | 7 | 100% | 327 |
| Shopping opportunities | 23% | 74 | 46% | 149 | 23% | 74 | 8% | 25 | 1% | 5 | 100% | 326 |
| Opportunities to attend cultural activities | 13% | 43 | 37% | 119 | 29% | 95 | 11% | 35 | 10% | 33 | 100% | 326 |
| Recreational opportunities | 19% | 61 | 47% | 154 | 24% | 77 | 5% | 16 | 6% | 18 | 100% | 327 |
| Employment opportunities | 3% | 10 | 25% | 79 | 27% | 87 | 15% | 49 | 31% | 99 | 100% | 323 |

| Question 2: Community Characteristics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|----|------------|-----|-------|------|
| Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole: | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Educational opportunities | 31% | 100 | 45% | 145 | 12% | 38 | 3% | 10 | 9% | 29 | 100% |
| Opportunities to participate in social events and activities | 14% | 46 | 42% | 136 | 31% | 100 | 4% | 14 | 8% | 27 | 100% | 324 |
| Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities | 17% | 54 | 40% | 130 | 15% | 49 | 3% | 10 | 25% | 82 | 100% | 325 |
| Opportunities to volunteer | 16% | 53 | 38% | 123 | 19% | 61 | 1% | 5 | 25% | 82 | 100% | 324 |
| Opportunities to participate in community matters | 14% | 46 | 39% | 123 | 25% | 81 | 2% | 8 | 19% | 60 | 100% | 319 |
| Ease of car travel in Meridian Township | 21% | 69 | 52% | 170 | 18% | 60 | 7% | 22 | 2% | 6 | 100% | 327 |
| Ease of bus travel in Meridian Township | 11% | 35 | 25% | 82 | 18% | 59 | 10% | 33 | 36% | 119 | 100% | 328 |
| Ease of bicycle travel in Meridian Township | 13% | 43 | 36% | 116 | 25% | 81 | 9% | 30 | 17% | 53 | 100% | 324 |
| Ease of walking in Meridian Township | 18% | 59 | 47% | 152 | 20% | 66 | 11% | 35 | 4% | 13 | 100% | 326 |
| Availability of paths and walking trails | 21% | 67 | 43% | 139 | 21% | 68 | 8% | 24 | 7% | 24 | 100% | 323 |
| Traffic flow on major streets | 10% | 33 | 50% | 163 | 31% | 101 | 8% | 27 | 1% | 4 | 100% | 328 |
| Availability of affordable quality housing | 8% | 26 | 46% | 147 | 28% | 90 | 7% | 22 | 12% | 37 | 100% | 324 |
| Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township | 21% | 69 | 54% | 179 | 20% | 67 | 2% | 6 | 3% | 9 | 100% | 330 |
| Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township | 18% | 60 | 58% | 189 | 17% | 57 | 3% | 11 | 3% | 11 | 100% | 328 |

| Question 3: Growth | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------------|----|---------------|----|------------|-----|-------|------|
| Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Meridian Township over the past 2 years: | Much too slow | | Somewhat too slow | | Right amount | | Somewhat too fast | | Much too fast | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Population growth | 2% | 8 | 11% | 37 | 39% | 128 | 6% | 21 | 2% | 7 | 38% | 125 | 100% |
| Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.) | 10% | 33 | 32% | 105 | 31% | 101 | 6% | 19 | 2% | 6 | 19% | 62 | 100% | 325 |
| Jobs growth | 14% | 46 | 29% | 93 | 10% | 31 | 1% | 4 | 0% | 1 | 46% | 151 | 100% | 326 |

| Question 4: Code Enforcement | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Meridian Township? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Not a problem | 21% | 67 |
| Minor problem | 46% | 151 |
| Moderate problem | 18% | 59 |
| Major problem | 3% | 10 |
| Don't know | 13% | 41 |
| Total | 100% | 328 |

| Question 5: Community Safety | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----|---------------|-----|-------------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|------------|----|-------|------|
| Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Meridian Township: | Very safe | | Somewhat safe | | Neither safe nor unsafe | | Somewhat unsafe | | Very unsafe | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery) | 50% | 164 | 37% | 123 | 9% | 28 | 2% | 7 | 0% | 2 | 2% | 6 | 100% |
| Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft) | 26% | 85 | 49% | 161 | 12% | 39 | 11% | 37 | 0% | 1 | 2% | 6 | 100% | 330 |
| Environmental hazards, including toxic waste | 46% | 150 | 33% | 107 | 9% | 29 | 4% | 14 | 0% | 1 | 8% | 27 | 100% | 326 |

| Question 6: Personal Safety | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----|---------------|-----|-------------------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------|----|------------|----|-------|------|
| Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel: | Very safe | | Somewhat safe | | Neither safe nor unsafe | | Somewhat unsafe | | Very unsafe | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | In your neighborhood during the day | 77% | 255 | 18% | 59 | 4% | 13 | 1% | 2 | 0% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 100% |
| In your neighborhood after dark | 42% | 139 | 42% | 137 | 9% | 31 | 6% | 19 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 3 | 100% | 330 |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area during the day | 64% | 209 | 21% | 68 | 4% | 15 | 1% | 2 | 1% | 2 | 9% | 31 | 100% | 326 |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area after dark | 29% | 95 | 37% | 119 | 11% | 36 | 7% | 21 | 0% | 1 | 16% | 53 | 100% | 326 |

| Question 7: Contact with Police Department | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|---|-------|-----|
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Police Department within the last 12 months? | No | | Yes | | Don't know | | Total | |
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Police Department within the last 12 months? | 67% | 222 | 33% | 109 | 0% | 1 | 100% | 332 |

| Question 8: Ratings of Contact with Police Department | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------------|---|-------|-----|
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Police Department? | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Police Department? | 54% | 59 | 20% | 21 | 13% | 14 | 12% | 14 | 1% | 1 | 100% | 109 |

| Question 9: Crime Victim | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| During the past 12 months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 91% | 305 |
| Yes | 7% | 24 |
| Don't know | 1% | 5 |
| Total | 100% | 333 |

| Question 10: Crime Reporting | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 6% | 1 |
| Yes | 89% | 20 |
| Don't know | 5% | 1 |
| Total | 100% | 23 |

| Question 11: Resident Behaviors | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------|------|
| In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Meridian Township? | Never | | Once or twice | | 3 to 12 times | | 13 to 26 times | | More than 26 times | | Total | |
| | Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services | 31% | 103 | 23% | 76 | 20% | 66 | 14% | 46 | 12% | 38 | 100% |
| Participated in a recreation program or activity | 54% | 178 | 27% | 88 | 14% | 46 | 3% | 9 | 2% | 8 | 100% | 329 |
| Visited a neighborhood park or Township park | 13% | 42 | 24% | 80 | 36% | 117 | 16% | 52 | 11% | 38 | 100% | 329 |
| Ridden a local bus within Meridian Township | 71% | 232 | 13% | 42 | 8% | 27 | 1% | 5 | 6% | 21 | 100% | 326 |
| Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting | 80% | 263 | 15% | 49 | 4% | 13 | 1% | 3 | 0% | 1 | 100% | 330 |
| Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other Township-sponsored public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media | 66% | 214 | 21% | 69 | 10% | 32 | 2% | 7 | 1% | 3 | 100% | 325 |
| Read Meridian Township Newsletter | 38% | 122 | 34% | 108 | 23% | 74 | 3% | 11 | 2% | 6 | 100% | 321 |
| Visited the Meridian Township Web site (at www.meridian.mi.us) | 49% | 160 | 19% | 60 | 24% | 78 | 5% | 17 | 3% | 9 | 100% | 324 |
| Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home | 23% | 74 | 9% | 30 | 18% | 60 | 14% | 46 | 36% | 116 | 100% | 325 |
| Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Meridian Township | 68% | 221 | 16% | 53 | 10% | 33 | 2% | 8 | 3% | 11 | 100% | 325 |
| Provided help to a friend or neighbor | 7% | 22 | 27% | 90 | 41% | 133 | 15% | 48 | 10% | 34 | 100% | 327 |

| Question 12: Neighborliness | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Just about everyday | 22% | 71 |
| Several times a week | 27% | 87 |
| Several times a month | 22% | 71 |
| Less than several times a month | 30% | 99 |
| Total | 100% | 328 |

| Question 13: Service Quality | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township: | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| Police services | 33% | 108 | 38% | 122 | 10% | 33 | 4% | 12 | 15% | 50 | 100% | 325 |
| Fire services | 31% | 100 | 30% | 98 | 5% | 15 | 2% | 6 | 33% | 109 | 100% | 327 |
| Ambulance or emergency medical services | 32% | 105 | 29% | 96 | 3% | 10 | 0% | 1 | 35% | 114 | 100% | 326 |
| Crime prevention | 20% | 64 | 42% | 136 | 11% | 36 | 3% | 10 | 24% | 79 | 100% | 325 |
| Fire prevention and education | 18% | 57 | 29% | 94 | 8% | 25 | 2% | 7 | 43% | 137 | 100% | 320 |
| Traffic enforcement | 16% | 52 | 46% | 148 | 18% | 58 | 6% | 19 | 14% | 45 | 100% | 322 |
| Street repair | 4% | 13 | 21% | 69 | 37% | 121 | 36% | 118 | 2% | 5 | 100% | 327 |
| Street cleaning | 7% | 23 | 38% | 122 | 32% | 104 | 15% | 49 | 8% | 27 | 100% | 325 |
| Street lighting | 10% | 32 | 44% | 142 | 29% | 93 | 15% | 48 | 3% | 9 | 100% | 325 |
| Snow removal | 11% | 37 | 36% | 118 | 32% | 104 | 17% | 56 | 3% | 9 | 100% | 324 |
| Sidewalk maintenance | 9% | 28 | 40% | 130 | 33% | 106 | 7% | 22 | 11% | 37 | 100% | 323 |
| Traffic signal timing | 7% | 23 | 46% | 146 | 29% | 94 | 15% | 49 | 2% | 7 | 100% | 320 |
| Bus or transit services | 9% | 30 | 25% | 81 | 16% | 52 | 5% | 18 | 44% | 143 | 100% | 323 |
| Recycling | 24% | 78 | 33% | 107 | 16% | 51 | 12% | 40 | 15% | 48 | 100% | 323 |
| Storm drainage | 13% | 43 | 45% | 147 | 20% | 63 | 4% | 14 | 17% | 56 | 100% | 323 |
| Drinking water | 31% | 100 | 47% | 153 | 10% | 32 | 3% | 9 | 10% | 31 | 100% | 325 |
| Sewer services | 24% | 78 | 47% | 152 | 11% | 35 | 2% | 6 | 16% | 53 | 100% | 323 |
| Township parks | 32% | 104 | 51% | 164 | 9% | 27 | 0% | 2 | 8% | 25 | 100% | 322 |
| Recreation programs or classes | 18% | 57 | 36% | 116 | 14% | 43 | 1% | 2 | 32% | 101 | 100% | 319 |
| Recreation centers or facilities | 14% | 44 | 37% | 117 | 17% | 53 | 1% | 4 | 31% | 100 | 100% | 318 |
| Land use, planning and zoning | 6% | 18 | 30% | 97 | 25% | 80 | 10% | 31 | 29% | 94 | 100% | 319 |
| Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.) | 8% | 24 | 28% | 92 | 24% | 78 | 11% | 36 | 29% | 94 | 100% | 324 |
| Economic development | 4% | 13 | 26% | 82 | 31% | 97 | 13% | 40 | 27% | 87 | 100% | 319 |
| Services to seniors | 10% | 32 | 22% | 70 | 12% | 39 | 2% | 8 | 54% | 172 | 100% | 321 |
| Services to youth | 12% | 40 | 29% | 93 | 15% | 49 | 2% | 6 | 42% | 134 | 100% | 322 |
| Services to low-income people | 6% | 20 | 13% | 41 | 13% | 42 | 7% | 22 | 61% | 192 | 100% | 317 |

| Question 13: Service Quality | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------------|-----|-------|------|
| Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township: | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Public library services | 32% | 103 | 37% | 120 | 9% | 29 | 3% | 9 | 20% | 65 | 100% |
| Public information services | 14% | 46 | 33% | 105 | 18% | 57 | 4% | 13 | 32% | 103 | 100% | 323 |
| Cable television | 12% | 40 | 35% | 113 | 21% | 67 | 13% | 42 | 19% | 63 | 100% | 324 |
| Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations) | 7% | 23 | 23% | 75 | 16% | 52 | 5% | 15 | 49% | 157 | 100% | 322 |
| Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts | 18% | 57 | 40% | 127 | 21% | 66 | 3% | 11 | 18% | 58 | 100% | 318 |

| Question 14: Government Services Overall | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|----|------------|----|-------|------|
| Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following? | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Meridian Township | 18% | 58 | 49% | 158 | 20% | 64 | 4% | 13 | 9% | 29 | 100% |
| The Federal Government | 5% | 17 | 33% | 104 | 34% | 110 | 13% | 41 | 15% | 49 | 100% | 320 |
| The State Government | 6% | 18 | 29% | 94 | 38% | 121 | 11% | 35 | 16% | 52 | 100% | 319 |
| Ingham County Government | 7% | 22 | 34% | 107 | 31% | 100 | 9% | 28 | 19% | 62 | 100% | 319 |

| Question 15: Recommendation and Longevity | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----------------|-----|-------------------|----|---------------|----|------------|----|-------|------|
| Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following: | Very likely | | Somewhat likely | | Somewhat unlikely | | Very unlikely | | Don't know | | Total | |
| | Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks | 53% | 174 | 40% | 133 | 3% | 9 | 3% | 9 | 1% | 4 | 100% |
| Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years | 56% | 184 | 25% | 81 | 4% | 13 | 11% | 35 | 5% | 17 | 100% | 330 |

| Question 16: Impact of the Economy | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be: | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Very positive | 3% | 11 |
| Somewhat positive | 17% | 55 |
| Neutral | 48% | 157 |
| Somewhat negative | 26% | 84 |
| Very negative | 6% | 19 |
| Total | 100% | 326 |

| Question 17: Contact with Fire Department | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|------------|---|-------|-----|
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Fire Department within the last 12 months? | No | | Yes | | Don't know | | Total | |
| Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Meridian Township Fire Department within the last 12 months? | 91% | 297 | 9% | 30 | 0% | 1 | 100% | 329 |

| Question 18: Ratings of Contact with Fire Department | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----|------|---|------|---|------|---|------------|---|-------|----|
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department? | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department? | 50% | 15 | 23% | 7 | 2% | 1 | 25% | 8 | 0% | 0 | 100% | 30 |

| Question 19: Contact with Township Employees | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| Have you had any in-person, phone or email with an employee of Meridian Township within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 54% | 176 |
| Yes | 46% | 150 |
| Total | 100% | 326 |

| Question 20: Township Employees | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------------|---|-------|-----|
| What was your impression of the employee(s) of Meridian Township in your most recent contact? | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| Knowledge | 46% | 68 | 35% | 53 | 7% | 11 | 10% | 15 | 2% | 3 | 100% | 150 |
| Responsiveness | 47% | 71 | 34% | 51 | 10% | 16 | 7% | 11 | 1% | 1 | 100% | 150 |
| Courtesy | 53% | 80 | 27% | 41 | 11% | 16 | 9% | 13 | 0% | 0 | 100% | 150 |
| Overall impression | 51% | 76 | 29% | 43 | 11% | 16 | 9% | 14 | 0% | 0 | 100% | 150 |

| Question 21: Government Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|----|------------|-----|-------|-----|
| Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance: | Excellent | | Good | | Fair | | Poor | | Don't know | | Total | |
| The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township | 10% | 33 | 36% | 118 | 24% | 78 | 12% | 38 | 19% | 61 | 100% | 327 |
| The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking | 8% | 27 | 37% | 120 | 26% | 84 | 8% | 27 | 21% | 68 | 100% | 325 |
| The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement | 9% | 28 | 25% | 82 | 25% | 81 | 10% | 32 | 31% | 101 | 100% | 324 |

| Question 22a: Custom Question 1 | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| About how many times, if ever, did you visit the Farmers' Market in 2011? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Never | 30% | 100 |
| Once or twice | 23% | 77 |
| 3 to 12 times | 34% | 112 |
| 13 to 26 times | 10% | 34 |
| More than 26 times | 2% | 8 |
| Total | 100% | 331 |

| Question 22b: Custom Question 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-------|------|
| Please indicate how much you would support or oppose the following: | Strongly support | | Somewhat support | | Somewhat oppose | | Strongly oppose | | Total | |
| | Moving the Farmers' Market to an alternate location (i.e. Meridian Mall Parking Lot) | 19% | 60 | 34% | 105 | 28% | 88 | 18% | 57 | 100% |
| Eliminating the adjacent soccer field to the West and expanding the building and parking area with the added space | 16% | 47 | 32% | 97 | 30% | 91 | 22% | 67 | 100% | 302 |
| Make no changes to the location of the Farmers' Market | 29% | 88 | 45% | 134 | 19% | 58 | 7% | 20 | 100% | 300 |

| Question 22c: Custom Question 3 | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| Moving or expanding the Farmers' Market could result in increased taxes. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a tax increase to fund the expansion or relocation of the Farmers' Market: | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Strongly support | 8% | 24 |
| Somewhat support | 25% | 79 |
| Somewhat oppose | 27% | 87 |
| Strongly oppose | 40% | 127 |
| Total | 100% | 318 |

| Question 22d: Custom Question 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-------|------|
| Please indicate how much you support or oppose the Meridian Township government encouraging more public art in the following places: | Strongly support | | Somewhat support | | Somewhat oppose | | Strongly oppose | | Total | |
| | On private property | 28% | 87 | 43% | 133 | 18% | 56 | 12% | 37 | 100% |
| On public property (i.e. parks, public buildings) | 40% | 127 | 40% | 128 | 11% | 36 | 8% | 26 | 100% | 318 |

| Question 22e: Custom Question 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-------|------|
| In the last 12 months, about how many times if any, have you or other household members used the following: | Never | | Once or twice | | 3 to 12 times | | 13 to 26 times | | More than 26 times | | Total | |
| | Off road pathways in Meridian Township | 37% | 118 | 28% | 87 | 14% | 45 | 10% | 33 | 10% | 33 | 100% |
| Trails in Township parks | 32% | 100 | 34% | 106 | 15% | 46 | 9% | 29 | 10% | 30 | 100% | 310 |

| Question 22f: Custom Question 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|----|-------|------|
| Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose the following in Meridian Township: | Strongly support | | Somewhat support | | Somewhat oppose | | Strongly oppose | | Total | |
| | Increasing the number of Township off-road pathways | 31% | 100 | 48% | 154 | 15% | 47 | 6% | 21 | 100% |
| Using existing utility easements for construction of new off-road pathways | 32% | 102 | 52% | 165 | 9% | 30 | 7% | 23 | 100% | 320 |

| Question D1: Employment Status | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Are you currently employed for pay? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 33% | 107 |
| Yes, full-time | 53% | 171 |
| Yes, part-time | 14% | 47 |
| Total | 100% | 324 |

| Question D2: Mode of Transportation Used for Commute | |
|--|---------------------------|
| During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below? | Percent of days mode used |
| Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc.) by myself | 78% |
| Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc.) with other children or adults | 8% |
| Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation | 3% |
| Walk | 2% |
| Bicycle | 4% |
| Work at home | 5% |
| Other | 0% |

| Question D3: Length of Residency | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| How many years have you lived in Meridian Township? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Less than 2 years | 18% | 59 |
| 2 to 5 years | 20% | 66 |
| 6 to 10 years | 12% | 40 |
| 11 to 20 years | 20% | 67 |
| More than 20 years | 29% | 95 |
| Total | 100% | 327 |

| Question D4: Housing Unit Type | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| Which best describes the building you live in? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| One family house detached from any other houses | 57% | 187 |
| House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome) | 4% | 13 |
| Building with two or more apartments or condominiums | 38% | 126 |
| Mobile home | 0% | 0 |
| Other | 1% | 3 |
| Total | 100% | 329 |

| Question D5: Housing Tenure (Rent/Own) | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| Is this house, apartment or mobile home... | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment | 38% | 123 |
| Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear | 62% | 201 |
| Total | 100% | 324 |

| Question D6: Monthly Housing Cost | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| About how much is the monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Less than \$300 per month | 3% | 11 |
| \$300 to \$599 per month | 17% | 55 |
| \$600 to \$999 per month | 40% | 127 |
| \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month | 18% | 59 |
| \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month | 16% | 52 |
| \$2,500 or more per month | 5% | 17 |
| Total | 100% | 322 |

| Question D7: Presence of Children in Household | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| Do any children 17 or under live in your household? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 73% | 238 |
| Yes | 27% | 90 |
| Total | 100% | 328 |

| Question D8: Presence of Older Adults in Household | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 73% | 241 |
| Yes | 27% | 92 |
| Total | 100% | 333 |

| Question D9: Household Income | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.) | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Less than \$24,999 | 21% | 64 |
| \$25,000 to \$49,999 | 16% | 51 |
| \$50,000 to \$99,999 | 28% | 87 |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 22% | 69 |
| \$150,000 or more | 12% | 38 |
| Total | 100% | 309 |

| Question D10: Ethnicity | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | 97% | 319 |
| Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino | 3% | 9 |
| Total | 100% | 328 |

| Question D11: Race | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.) | Percent of respondents | Count |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 0% | 1 |
| Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander | 12% | 39 |
| Black or African American | 3% | 11 |
| White | 85% | 278 |
| Other | 2% | 7 |

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option

| Question D12: Age | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| In which category is your age? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| 18 to 24 years | 9% | 30 |
| 25 to 34 years | 23% | 76 |
| 35 to 44 years | 15% | 48 |
| 45 to 54 years | 16% | 52 |
| 55 to 64 years | 15% | 51 |
| 65 to 74 years | 13% | 41 |
| 75 years or older | 9% | 30 |
| Total | 100% | 328 |

| Question D13: Gender | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------|
| What is your sex? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Female | 54% | 178 |
| Male | 46% | 150 |
| Total | 100% | 328 |

| Question D14: Registered to Vote | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 10% | 32 |
| Yes | 84% | 277 |
| Ineligible to vote | 4% | 12 |
| Don't know | 2% | 8 |
| Total | 100% | 329 |

| Question D15: Voted in Last General Election | | |
|--|------------------------|-------|
| Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 19% | 64 |
| Yes | 73% | 241 |
| Ineligible to vote | 6% | 18 |
| Don't know | 2% | 7 |
| Total | 100% | 331 |

| Question D16: Has Cell Phone | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Do you have a cell phone? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 3% | 9 |
| Yes | 97% | 322 |
| Total | 100% | 331 |

| Question D17: Has Land Line | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Do you have a land line at home? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| No | 45% | 150 |
| Yes | 55% | 181 |
| Total | 100% | 331 |

| Question D18: Primary Phone | | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| If you have both a cell phone and a land line, which do you consider your primary telephone number? | Percent of respondents | Count |
| Cell | 18% | 31 |
| Land line | 65% | 111 |
| Both | 17% | 28 |
| Total | 100% | 170 |

APPENDIX B: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) was developed to provide local jurisdictions an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret resident opinion about important community issues. While standardization of question wording and survey methods provide the rigor to assure valid results, each jurisdiction has enough flexibility to construct a customized version of The NCS that asks residents about key local services and important local issues.

Results offer insight into residents' perspectives about local government performance and as such provide important benchmarks for jurisdictions working on performance measurement. The NCS is designed to help with budget, land use and strategic planning as well as to communicate with local residents. The NCS permits questions to test support for local policies and answers to its questions also speak to community trust and involvement in community-building activities as well as to resident demographic characteristics.

SURVEY VALIDITY

The question of survey validity has two parts: 1) how can a jurisdiction be confident that the results from those who completed the questionnaire are representative of the results that would have been obtained had the survey been administered to the entire population? and 2) how closely do the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do?

To answer the first question, the best survey research practices were used for the resources spent to ensure that the results from the survey respondents reflect the opinions of residents in the entire jurisdiction. These practices include:

- Using a mail-out/mail-back methodology, which typically gets a higher response rate than phone for the same dollars spent. A higher response rate lessens the worry that those who did not respond are different than those who did respond.
- Selecting households at random within the jurisdiction to receive the survey. A random selection ensures that the households selected to receive the survey are similar to the entire population. A non-random sample may only include households from one geographic area, or from households of only one type.
- Over-sampling multi-family housing units to improve response from hard-to-reach, lower income, or younger apartment dwellers.
- Selecting the respondent within the household using an unbiased sampling procedure; in this case, the "birthday method." The cover letter included an instruction requesting that the respondent in the household be the adult (18 years old or older) who most recently had a birthday, irrespective of year of birth.
- Contacting potential respondents three times to encourage response from people who may have different opinions or habits than those who would respond with only a single prompt.
- Soliciting response on jurisdiction letterhead signed by the highest ranking elected official or staff member, thus appealing to the recipients' sense of civic responsibility.
- Providing a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope.
- Offering the survey in Spanish when appropriate and requested by Township officials.
- Using the most recent available information about the characteristics of jurisdiction residents to weight the data to reflect the demographics of the population.

The answer to the second question about how closely the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do is more complex. Resident responses to surveys are influenced by a variety of factors. For questions about service quality, residents' expectations for

service quality play a role as well as the “objective” quality of the service provided, the way the resident perceives the entire community (that is, the context in which the service is provided), the scale on which the resident is asked to record his or her opinion and, of course, the opinion, itself, that a resident holds about the service. Similarly a resident’s report of certain behaviors is colored by what he or she believes is the socially desirable response (e.g., reporting tolerant behaviors toward “oppressed groups,” likelihood of voting a tax increase for services to poor people, use of alternative modes of travel to work besides the single occupancy vehicle), his or her memory of the actual behavior (if it is not a question speculating about future actions, like a vote), his or her confidence that he or she can be honest without suffering any negative consequences (thus the need for anonymity) as well as the actual behavior itself.

How closely survey results come to recording the way a person really feels or behaves often is measured by the coincidence of reported behavior with observed current behavior (e.g., driving habits), reported intentions to behave with observed future behavior (e.g., voting choices) or reported opinions about current community quality with objective characteristics of the community (e.g., feelings of safety correlated with rates of crime). There is a body of scientific literature that has investigated the relationship between reported behaviors and actual behaviors. Well-conducted surveys, by and large, do capture true respondent behaviors or intentions to act with great accuracy. Predictions of voting outcomes tend to be quite accurate using survey research, as do reported behaviors that are not about highly sensitive issues (e.g., family abuse or other illegal or morally sanctioned activities). For self-reports about highly sensitive issues, statistical adjustments can be made to correct for the respondents’ tendency to report what they think the “correct” response should be.

Research on the correlation of resident opinion about service quality and “objective” ratings of service quality tend to be ambiguous, some showing stronger relationships than others. NRC’s own research has demonstrated that residents who report the lowest ratings of street repair live in communities with objectively worse street conditions than those who report high ratings of street repair (based on road quality, delay in street repair, number of road repair employees). Similarly, the lowest rated fire services appear to be “objectively” worse than the highest rated fire services (expenditures per capita, response time, “professional” status of firefighters, breadth of services and training provided). Whether or not some research confirms the relationship between what residents think about a community and what can be seen “objectively” in a community, NRC has argued that resident opinion is a perspective that cannot be ignored by government administrators. NRC principals have written, “If you collect trash three times a day but residents think that your trash haul is lousy, you still have a problem.”

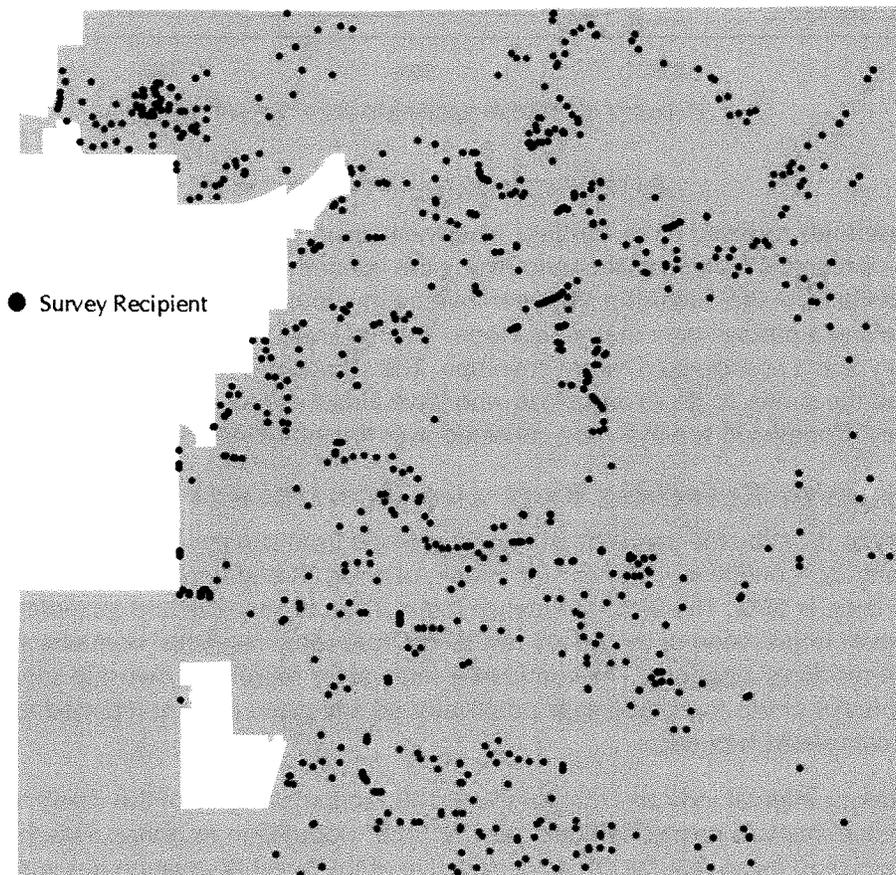
SURVEY SAMPLING

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients were chosen. All households within Meridian Township were eligible to participate in the survey; 1,200 were selected to receive the survey. These 1,200 households were randomly selected from a comprehensive list of all housing units within Meridian Township boundaries. The basis of the list of all housing units was a United States Postal Service listing of housing units within zip codes. Since some of the zip codes that serve Meridian Township households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the jurisdiction, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to jurisdiction boundaries, using the most current municipal boundary file (updated on a quarterly basis), and addresses located outside of Meridian Township boundaries were removed from consideration.

To choose the 1,200 survey recipients, a systematic sampling method was applied to the list of households known to be within Meridian Township. Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible items is culled, selecting every Nth one until the appropriate amount of items is selected. Multi-family housing units were over sampled as residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in single-family housing units.

FIGURE 91: LOCATION OF SURVEY RECIPIENTS

**The National Citizen Survey™
Meridian Township, MI 2012**

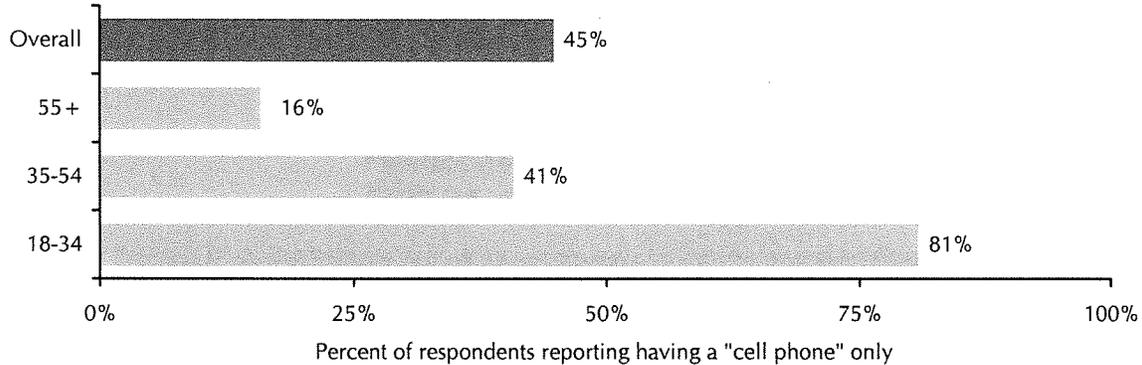


An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaire.

In response to the growing number of the cell-phone population (so-called “cord cutters”), which includes a large proportion of young adults, questions about cell phones and land lines are included on The NCS™ questionnaire. As of the middle of 2010 (the most recent estimates available

as of the end of 2010), 26.6% of U.S. households had a cell phone but no landline.³ Among younger adults (age 18-34), 53.7% of households were “cell-only.” Based on survey results, Meridian Township has a “cord cutter” population greater than the nationwide 2010 estimates.

FIGURE 92: PREVALENCE OF CELL-PHONE ONLY RESPONDENTS IN MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP



SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Selected households received three mailings, one week apart, beginning May 29, 2012. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The next mailing contained a letter from the Township Manager inviting the household to participate, a questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey and a postage-paid return envelope. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who have already done so to refrain from turning in another survey. Completed surveys were collected over the following six weeks.

SURVEY RESPONSE RATE AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a “level of confidence” and accompanying “confidence interval” (or margin of error). A traditional level of confidence, and the one used here, is 95%. The 95% confidence interval can be any size and quantifies the sampling error or imprecision of the survey results because some residents' opinions are relied on to estimate all residents' opinions. The confidence interval for Meridian Township survey is no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (336 completed surveys).

A 95% confidence interval indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, 95 of the confidence intervals created will include the “true” population response. This theory is applied in practice to mean that the “true” perspective of the target population lies within the confidence interval created for a single survey. For example, if 75% of residents rate a service as “excellent” or “good,” then the 4% margin of error (for the 95% confidence interval) indicates that the range of likely responses for the entire jurisdiction is between 71% and 79%. This source of error is called sampling error. In addition to sampling error, other sources of error may affect any survey, including the non-response of residents with opinions different from survey responders. Though standardized on The NCS, on other surveys, differences in question wording, order, translation and data entry, as examples, can lead to somewhat varying results.

³ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless201012.pdf>

For subgroups of responses, the margin of error increases because the sample size for the subgroup is smaller. For subgroups of approximately 100 respondents, the margin of error is plus or minus 10 percentage points

SURVEY PROCESSING (DATA ENTRY)

Completed surveys received by NRC were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and "cleaned" as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; NRC staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of "key and verify," in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

SURVEY DATA WEIGHTING

The demographic characteristics of the survey sample were compared to those found in the 2010 Census estimates and the 2005-2009 American Community Survey and other population norms for adults in Meridian Township. Sample results were weighted using the population norms to reflect the appropriate percent of those residents. Other discrepancies between the whole population and the sample were also aided by the weighting due to the intercorrelation of many socioeconomic characteristics.

The variables used for weighting were housing tenure, race and ethnicity and sex and age. This decision was based on:

- ▣ The disparity between the survey respondent characteristics and the population norms for these variables
- ▣ The saliency of these variables in detecting differences of opinion among subgroups
- ▣ The importance to the community of correct ethnic representation
- ▣ The historical use of the variables and the desirability of consistently representing different groups over the years

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the community. This is done by: 1) reviewing the sample demographics and comparing them to the population norms from the most recent Census or other sources and 2) comparing the responses to different questions for demographic subgroups. The demographic characteristics that are least similar to the Census and yield the most different results are the best candidates for data weighting. A third criterion sometimes used is the importance that the community places on a specific variable. For example, if a jurisdiction feels that accurate race representation is key to staff and public acceptance of the study results, additional consideration will be given in the weighting process to adjusting the race variable.

A special software program using mathematical algorithms is used to calculate the appropriate weights. Data weighting can adjust up to 5 demographic variables. Several different weighting “schemes” may be tested to ensure the best fit for the data.

The process actually begins at the point of sampling. Knowing that residents in single family dwellings are more likely to respond to a mail survey, NRC oversamples residents of multi-family dwellings to ensure their proper representation in the sample data. Rather than giving all residents an equal chance of receiving the survey, this is systematic, stratified sampling, which gives each resident of the jurisdiction a known chance of receiving the survey (and apartment dwellers, for example, a greater chance than single family home dwellers). As a consequence, results must be weighted to recapture the proper representation of apartment dwellers.

The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the table on the following page.

| Meridian Township 2012 National Citizen Survey Weighting Table | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Characteristic | Population Norm ¹ | Unweighted Data | Weighted Data |
| Housing | | | |
| Rent home | 38% | 29% | 38% |
| Own home | 62% | 71% | 62% |
| Detached unit | 58% | 63% | 57% |
| Attached unit | 42% | 37% | 43% |
| Race and Ethnicity | | | |
| White | 82% | 87% | 82% |
| Not white | 18% | 13% | 18% |
| Not Hispanic | 97% | 98% | 97% |
| Hispanic | 3% | 2% | 3% |
| White alone, not Hispanic | 80% | 86% | 80% |
| Hispanic and/or other race | 20% | 14% | 20% |
| Sex and Age | | | |
| Female | 53% | 61% | 54% |
| Male | 47% | 39% | 46% |
| 18-34 years of age | 33% | 21% | 32% |
| 35-54 years of age | 32% | 26% | 31% |
| 55+ years of age | 35% | 53% | 37% |
| Females 18-34 | 17% | 15% | 17% |
| Females 35-54 | 17% | 17% | 16% |
| Females 55+ | 19% | 29% | 20% |
| Males 18-34 | 16% | 7% | 15% |
| Males 35-54 | 15% | 10% | 15% |
| Males 55+ | 16% | 23% | 16% |

¹ Source: 2010Census/2005-2009 ACS

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

The survey dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Frequency distributions were presented in the body of the report.

Use of the “Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor” Response Scale

The scale on which respondents are asked to record their opinions about service and community quality is “excellent,” “good,” “fair” or “poor” (EGFP). This scale has important advantages over other scale possibilities (very good to very bad; very satisfied to very dissatisfied; strongly agree to strongly disagree, as examples). EGFP is used by the plurality of jurisdictions conducting citizen surveys across the U.S. The advantage of familiarity was one that NRC did not want to dismiss when crafting The National Citizen Survey™ questionnaire, because elected officials, staff and residents already are acquainted with opinion surveys measured this way. EGFP also has the advantage of offering three positive options, rather than only two, over which a resident can offer an opinion. While symmetrical scales often are the right choice in other measurement tasks, NRC has found that ratings of almost every local government service in almost every jurisdiction tend, on average, to be positive (that is, above the scale midpoint). Therefore, to permit finer distinctions among positively rated services, EGFP offers three options across which to spread those ratings. EGFP is more neutral because it requires no positive statement of service quality to judge (as agree-disagree scales require) and, finally, EGFP intends to measure absolute quality of service delivery or community quality (unlike satisfaction scales which ignore residents’ perceptions of quality in favor of their report on the acceptability of the level of service offered).

“Don’t Know” Responses

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Benchmark Comparisons

NRC has been leading the strategic use of surveys for local governments since 1991, when the principals of the company wrote the first edition of what became the classic text on citizen surveying. In *Citizen Surveys: how to do them, how to use them, what they mean*, published by ICMA, not only were the principles for quality survey methods articulated, but both the idea of benchmark data for citizen opinion and the method for gathering benchmark data were pioneered. The argument for benchmarks was called “In Search of Standards.” “What has been missing from a local government’s analysis of its survey results is the context that school administrators can supply when they tell parents how an 80 percent score on the social studies test compares to test results from other school systems...”

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in citizen surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services. Conducted with typically no fewer than 400 residents in each jurisdiction, opinions are intended to represent over 30 million Americans. NRC has innovated a method for quantitatively integrating the results of surveys that are conducted by NRC with those that others have conducted. The integration methods have been thoroughly described not only in the *Citizen Surveys* book, but also in *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Scholars who

specialize in the analysis of citizen surveys regularly have relied on this work (e.g., Kelly, J. & Swindell, D. (2002). Service quality variation across urban space: First steps towards a model of citizen satisfaction. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 24, 271-288.; Van Ryzin, G., Muzzio, D., Immerwahr, S., Gulick, L. & Martinez, E. (2004). Drivers and consequences of citizen satisfaction: An application of the American Customer Satisfaction Index Model to New York City, *Public Administration Review*, 64, 331- 341). The method described in those publications is refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of citizen surveys in NRC's proprietary databases. NRC's work on calculating national benchmarks for resident opinions about service delivery and quality of life won the Samuel C. May award for research excellence from the Western Governmental Research Association.

The comparison evaluations are from the most recent survey completed in each jurisdiction; most communities conduct surveys every year or in alternating years. NRC adds the latest results quickly upon survey completion, keeping the benchmark data fresh and relevant.

The Role of Comparisons

Benchmark comparisons are used for performance measurement. Jurisdictions use the comparative information to help interpret their own citizen survey results, to create or revise community plans, to evaluate the success of policy or budget decisions and to measure local government performance. Taking the pulse of the community has little meaning without knowing what pulse rate is too high and what is too low. When surveys of service satisfaction turn up "good" citizen evaluations, jurisdictions need to know how others rate their services to understand if "good" is good enough. Furthermore, in the absence of national or peer community comparisons, a jurisdiction is left with comparing its fire protection rating to its street maintenance rating. That comparison is unfair. Streets always lose to fire. More important and harder questions need to be asked; for example, how do residents' ratings of fire service compare to opinions about fire service in other communities?

A police department that provides the fastest and most efficient service – one that closes most of its cases, solves most of its crimes and keeps the crime rate low – still has a problem to fix if the residents in the community it intends to protect believe services are not very good compared to ratings given by residents to their own objectively "worse" departments. The benchmark data can help that police department – or any department – to understand how well citizens think it is doing. Without the comparative data, it would be like bowling in a tournament without knowing what the other teams are scoring. NRC recommends that citizen opinion be used in conjunction with other sources of data about budget, personnel and politics to help managers know how to respond to comparative results.

Jurisdictions in the benchmark database are distributed geographically across the country and range from small to large in population size. Most commonly, comparisons are made to the entire database. Comparisons may also be made to subsets of jurisdictions (for example, within a given region or population category). Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to residents. Though individual jurisdiction circumstances, resources and practices vary, the objective in every community is to provide services that are so timely, tailored and effective that residents conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction, like SAT scores in any teen household, bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Comparison of Meridian Township to the Benchmark Database

Meridian Township chose to have comparisons made to the entire database. A benchmark comparison (the average rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked) has been provided when a similar question on Meridian Township Survey was included in NRC's database and there were at least five jurisdictions in which the question was asked. For most questions compared to the entire dataset, there were more than 100 jurisdictions included in the benchmark comparison.

Where comparisons for quality ratings were available, Meridian Township results were generally noted as being "above" the benchmark, "below" the benchmark or "similar" to the benchmark. For some questions – those related to resident behavior, circumstance or to a local problem – the comparison to the benchmark is designated as "more," "similar" or "less" (for example, the percent of crime victims, residents visiting a park or residents identifying code enforcement as a problem.) In instances where ratings are considerably higher or lower than the benchmark, these ratings have been further demarcated by the attribute of "much," (for example, "much less" or "much above"). These labels come from a statistical comparison of Meridian Township's rating to the benchmark where a rating is considered "similar" if it is within the margin of error; "above," "below," "more" or "less" if the difference between your jurisdiction's rating and the benchmark is greater the margin of error; and "much above," "much below," "much more" or "much less" if the difference between your jurisdiction's rating and the benchmark is more than twice the margin of error.

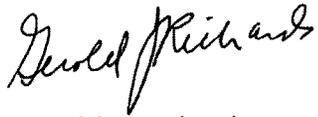
APPENDIX C: SURVEY MATERIALS

The following pages contain copies of the survey materials sent to randomly selected households within Meridian Township.

Dear Meridian Township Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous citizen survey about Meridian Charter Township. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important project!

Sincerely,

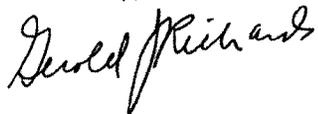


Gerald J. Richards
Township Manager

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Sincerely,



Gerald J. Richards
Township Manager

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Susan McGillicuddy Supervisor
Mary M. G. Helmbrecht Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Gerald J. Richards Manager



Brett Dreyfus Trustee
Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Trustee
Lynn Ochberg Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee

June 2012

Dear Meridian Township Resident:

Meridian Charter Township wants to know what you think about our community and municipal government. You have been randomly selected to participate in Meridian Township's 2012 Citizen Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Citizen Survey. Your feedback will help the Township set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services provided to residents. Your answers will help the Township Board make decisions that affect our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of Meridian Township residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. Year of birth of the adult does not matter.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Your participation in this survey is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number of households being surveyed. If you have any questions about the Citizen Survey please call (517) 853-4258.

Please help us shape the future of Meridian Township. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

Gerald J. Richards
Township Manager

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000 FAX (517) 853-4096

<http://www.twp.meridian.mi.us>

An Equal Opportunity Employer

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Susan McGillicuddy Supervisor
Mary M. G. Helmbrecht Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Gerald J. Richards Manager



Brett Dreyfus Trustee
Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Trustee
Lynn Ochberg Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee

June 2012

Dear Meridian Township Resident:

About one week ago, you should have received a copy of the enclosed survey. If you completed it and sent it back, we thank you for your time and ask you to recycle this survey. Please do not respond twice. If you have not had a chance to complete the survey, we would appreciate your response. Meridian Charter Township wants to know what you think about our community and municipal government. You have been randomly selected to participate in Meridian Township's Citizen Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Citizen Survey. Your feedback will help the Township set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services provided to residents. Your answers will help the Township Board make decisions that affect our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of Meridian Township residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. Year of birth of the adult does not matter.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Your participation in this survey is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number of households being surveyed. If you have any questions about the Citizen Survey please call (517) 853-4258.

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The Meridian Township 2012 Citizen Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Please select the response (by circling the number or checking the box) that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Meridian Township:

| | <i>Excellent</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Fair</i> | <i>Poor</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Meridian Township as a place to live..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Your neighborhood as a place to live..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Meridian Township as a place to raise children..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Meridian Township as a place to work..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Meridian Township as a place to retire..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The overall quality of life in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Meridian Township as a whole:

| | <i>Excellent</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Fair</i> | <i>Poor</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Sense of community..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Overall appearance of Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Cleanliness of Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Overall quality of new development in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Variety of housing options..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Overall quality of business and service establishments in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Shopping opportunities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Opportunities to attend cultural activities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Recreational opportunities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Employment opportunities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Educational opportunities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Opportunities to participate in social events and activities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Opportunities to volunteer..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Opportunities to participate in community matters..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ease of car travel in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ease of bus travel in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ease of bicycle travel in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ease of walking in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Availability of paths and walking trails..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Traffic flow on major streets..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Availability of affordable quality housing..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Quality of overall natural environment in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Overall image or reputation of Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

3. Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Meridian Township over the past 2 years:

| | <i>Much too slow</i> | <i>Somewhat too slow</i> | <i>Right amount</i> | <i>Somewhat too fast</i> | <i>Much too fast</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Population growth..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Jobs growth..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

4. To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Meridian Township?
 Not a problem Minor problem Moderate problem Major problem Don't know

5. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Meridian Township:

| | Very safe | Somewhat safe | Neither safe nor unsafe | Somewhat unsafe | Very unsafe | Don't know |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Environmental hazards, including toxic waste..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

6. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

| | Very safe | Somewhat safe | Neither safe nor unsafe | Somewhat unsafe | Very unsafe | Don't know |
|--|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| In your neighborhood during the day..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| In your neighborhood after dark..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area during the day. 1 | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| In Meridian Township's downtown area after dark..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

7. Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of the Meridian Township Police Department within the last 12 months?

- No → Go to Question 9 Yes → Go to Question 8 Don't know → Go to Question 9

8. What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Police Department?

- Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know

9. During the past 12 months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?

- No → Go to Question 11 Yes → Go to Question 10 Don't know → Go to Question 11

10. If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?

- No Yes Don't know

11. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Meridian Township?

| | Never | Once or twice | 3 to 12 times | 13 to 26 times | More than 26 times |
|--|-------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Used Meridian Township public libraries or their services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Participated in a recreation program or activity | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Visited a neighborhood park or Township park..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ridden a local bus within Meridian Township | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Watched a meeting of local elected officials or other Township-sponsored public meeting on cable television, the Internet or other media | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Read "Meridian Monitor" Newsletter | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Visited the Meridian Township Web site (at www.meridian.mi.us) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Meridian Township .. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Provided help to a friend or neighbor..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

12. About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?

- Just about every day
 Several times a week
 Several times a month
 Less than several times a month

The Meridian Township 2012 Citizen Survey

13. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Meridian Township:

| | <i>Excellent</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Fair</i> | <i>Poor</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|--|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Police services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Fire services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ambulance or emergency medical services..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Crime prevention | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Fire prevention and education | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Traffic enforcement..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Street repair | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Street cleaning | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Street lighting..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Snow removal..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Sidewalk maintenance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Traffic signal timing | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Bus or transit services..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Recycling..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Storm drainage..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Drinking water..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Sewer services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Township parks..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Recreation programs or classes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Recreation centers or facilities..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Land use, planning and zoning | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Economic development | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Services to seniors..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Services to youth..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Services to low-income people | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Public library services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Public information services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Cable television | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

14. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

| | <i>Excellent</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Fair</i> | <i>Poor</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| The Meridian Township | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The Federal Government | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The State Government | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ingham County Government..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

15. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:

| | <i>Very likely</i> | <i>Somewhat likely</i> | <i>Somewhat unlikely</i> | <i>Very unlikely</i> | <i>Don't know</i> |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Recommend living in Meridian Township to someone who asks ... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Remain in Meridian Township for the next five years..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

16. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

- Very positive
 Somewhat positive
 Neutral
 Somewhat negative
 Very negative

17. Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of the Meridian Township Fire Department within the last 12 months?

- No → Go to Question 19 Yes → Go to Question 18 Don't know → Go to Question 19

18. What was your overall impression of your most recent contact with the Meridian Township Fire Department?

- Excellent Good Fair Poor Don't know

19. Have you had any in-person, phone or email contact with an employee of the Meridian Township within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?

- No → Go to Question 21 Yes → Go to Question 20

20. What was your impression of the employee(s) of the Meridian Township in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.)

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know |
|-------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------------|
| Knowledge..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Responsiveness..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Courtesy..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Overall impression..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

21. Please rate the following categories of Meridian Township government performance:

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't know |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|------------|
| The value of services for the taxes paid to Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The overall direction that Meridian Township is taking..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| The job Meridian Township government does at welcoming citizen involvement..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

22. Please check the response that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:

a. About how many times, if ever, did you visit the Farmers' Market in 2011?

- Never Once or twice 3 to 12 times 13 to 26 times More than 26 times

b. Please indicate how much you would support or oppose the following:

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Moving the Farmers' Market to an alternate location (i.e. Meridian Mall Parking Lot)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Eliminating the adjacent soccer field to the West and expanding the building and parking area with the added space..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Make no changes to the location of the Farmers' Market..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

c. Moving or expanding the Farmers' Market could result in increased taxes. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose a tax increase to fund the expansion or relocation of the Farmers' Market:

- Strongly support Somewhat support Somewhat oppose Strongly oppose

d. Please indicate how much you support or oppose the Meridian Township government encouraging more public art in the following places:

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| On private property..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| On public property (i.e. parks, public buildings)..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

e. In the last 12 months, about how many times if any, have you or other household members used the following:

| | Never | Once or twice | 3 to 12 times | 13 to 26 times | More than 26 times |
|---|-------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Off road pathways in Meridian Township..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Trails in Township parks..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

f. Please indicate to what extent you would support or oppose the following in Meridian Township:

| | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Increasing the number of Township off-road pathways..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Using existing utility easements for construction of new off-road pathways..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

The Meridian Township 2012 Citizen Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. Are you currently employed for pay?

- No → Go to Question D3
- Yes, full time → Go to Question D2
- Yes, part time → Go to Question D2

D2. During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below? (Enter the total number of days, using whole numbers.)

- Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc.) by myself _____ days
- Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc.) with other children or adults _____ days
- Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation _____ days
- Walk _____ days
- Bicycle _____ days
- Work at home _____ days
- Other _____ days

D3. How many years have you lived in Meridian Township?

- Less than 2 years 11-20 years
- 2-5 years More than 20 years
- 6-10 years

D4. Which best describes the building you live in?

- One family house detached from any other houses
- House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)
- Building with two or more apartments or condominiums
- Mobile home
- Other

D5. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment?
- Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear?

D6. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- Less than \$300 per month
- \$300 to \$599 per month
- \$600 to \$999 per month
- \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month
- \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month
- \$2,500 or more per month

D7. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- No Yes

D8. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- No Yes

D9. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- Less than \$24,999
- \$25,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more

Please respond to both questions D10 and D11:

D10. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
- Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D11. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- White
- Other

D12. In which category is your age?

- 18-24 years 55-64 years
- 25-34 years 65-74 years
- 35-44 years 75 years or older
- 45-54 years

D13. What is your sex?

- Female Male

D14. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?

- No Ineligible to vote
- Yes Don't know

D15. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?

- No Ineligible to vote
- Yes Don't know

D16. Do you have a cell phone?

- No Yes

D17. Do you have a land line at home?

- No Yes

D18. If you have both a cell phone and a land line, which do you consider your primary telephone number?

- Cell Land line Both

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey in the postage-paid envelope to:
National Research Center, Inc., PO Box 549, Belle Mead, NJ 08502