

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis  
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Meridian Hills

Northside town bounded by Williams Creek, College Avenue, 71st/64th streets, and Spring Mill Road. Residential development in Meridian Hills began as early as the 1920s and 1930s, when affluent families built homes in the countryside to escape Indianapolis taxes and traffic. Residents voted for incorporation in 1937, seeking stricter zoning laws to keep out nonresidential development. Since then the town has been governed by a three-member council consisting of a president and two members elected to serve four-year terms. Meridian Hills maintains its special status as an included town under Unigov. In the 1950s and early 1960s, several religious organizations battled opposition from the zoning board to build in Meridian Hills. Two cases eventually went to the Indiana Supreme Court, which permitted construction. Today, the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Second Presbyterian Church, and St. Luke Catholic Church are integral parts of the community. Most of the land has been developed exclusively for residences, though the town also boasts the campus of Park Tudor and Meridian Hills Country Club. Build in 1924 - 1925, the club serves as an unofficial town hall and a meeting place for the council. Today Meridian Hills counts 1,800 residents. The town continues to retain its status as a quiet enclave of upper middle class homes.

by Cathleen F. Donnelly