

Parks a priority | Fresno Bee Fresno Bee

It's a park, stupid!

The disparity between parks per thousand residents 1.1 acre per 1,000 residents below and 4.6 acres per 1,000 residents above Shaw Avenue is blight on the proud city of Fresno, and makes me feel ashamed for the city I love. Access to parks means healthier communities, decreased violent crime and greater economic prosperity.

This "need more parks" issue should have a big sign in front of city council and the mayor that reads, "It's a park, stupid!"

Parks should be at the top of the budget list, not the bottom. By the way, parks are also one of the cheapest departments to operate that provides services outside City Hall.

This is easily solved. The property is available. The city owns thousands of unused acres. There are thousands more abandoned houses and empty lots in the middle of these neighborhoods. The city has the power to either work with landowners to lease, or condemn and take them.

You have the money, Ms. Mayor. It's all about making good decisions that benefit the most citizens and, in this case, cost the least amount of money.

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