

Will city park fees spike?

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When the City Council called for a review of development impact fees last year, the main proponents of that idea certainly didn't think they'd be within spitting distance of doubling. Indeed, the whole idea was that they'd decrease -- though City Manager Kurt Starman warned early and often that the number-crunching's result was unpredictable in advance. Well, something close to the final study of park fees is done. And what's it say? To keep up the city's current level of service when it comes to parks, the impact fee would jump from just under \$4,000 per single-family home to nearly \$6,800 -- almost a 75 percent increase. The one possible offset? Charging new commercial or industrial buildings a park fee, on the rationale that employees who live out of town will use city parks. I'm sure that will especially thrill the economic-development types. The Community Services Advisory Commission will discuss the fees at its meeting Wednesday. Whatever they advise, though, it will take some serious powers of persuasion to get that kind of increase through the current City Council. I'll say this, though. Redding has nice parks. We should keep them that way. -