

Using the Parks funding model

A practical guide to the September 2026 workbook. Updated September 17, 2026.

The model asks how funding choices behave over time. It contains an operating scenario, a capital-renewal scenario, and separate borrowing and district illustrations. It is not a forecast of the entire Parks budget.

Start with one question

1. Save your own copy of the workbook. Keep an unchanged copy for comparison.
2. Open Inputs. Change one yellow cell in column D. Gray cells hold source values and the model calendar.
3. Return to Summary to compare the result. Use the relevant detail sheet to understand when the change matters.
4. Undo before trying another change, or save clearly named scenarios.

Which sheet answers which question?

Summary: headline results, the cost-and-funding chart, a worked example, and accounting checks.

Inputs: editable assumptions, their meanings and sources.

Operations: annual costs, available funds and shortfalls for the illustrative levy-supported service block.

Renewal: proposed capital funding compared with an annual renewal benchmark.

Financing: bond repayment, hypothetical property-tax impact, a separate district net-change example and endowment illustrations.

Options: 37 funding approaches and their constraints.

Sources: the source register and original publisher links.

Enter values in the stated units

Most money inputs are USD millions: enter 20 for \$20 million. Enter a percentage such as 4.5% for a growth rate. A fiscal start year of 2031 means FY2031–32. The property assessed-value input uses dollars and is labeled separately.

[Download the editable workbook](#) · [Read the funding strategy](#)

Try a change. Read its effect.

These examples start from the workbook's original defaults. Change one input at a time; they are tests of assumptions, not forecasts.

Can revenue keep pace with service costs?

Change Inputs!D11, replacement revenue growth, from 3.0% to 4.5%. Leave cost growth at 4.5%. Summary!D10 changes from an \$18.7M annual shortfall to approximately \$18.4M of annual headroom in FY2045–46. The negative result is displayed in parentheses. This tests the importance of sustained revenue growth after replacement, with the assumed initial 10% buffer unchanged.

What if the City withdraws existing support?

Restore D11 to 3.0%, then change Inputs!D14 from 0 to 20. The annual shortfall increases by \$20M after the hypothetical replacement starts. Review Operations to see the timing. This is an incremental withdrawal assumption, not a statement about City plans.

How much capital funding would the plan provide?

Change Inputs!D19, new annual pay-as-you-go capital funding, or D20, its proposed start year. Compare Summary!D11 (20-year funding) with D12 (renewal benchmark). Both are in constant 2026 dollars. On Renewal, the other cash columns are nominal dollars. The default \$55M annual new funding amount is an unfunded planning requirement. It is not existing revenue.

What would borrowing cost?

Change bond principal, interest or term in Inputs!D21:D23. Read annual debt service, usable proceeds, total interest and the repayment schedule on Financing. The default \$150M, 20-year bond at 4.5% implies roughly \$11.53M annual debt service. Issuance costs reduce usable proceeds to \$147M. These assumptions are not a market quote or an approved bond.

Keep the examples separate

Bond proceeds and the district example are not automatically added to Operations or Renewal. Adding them without identifying which funds they replace could double-count the resources available.

Why the checks show zero

The checks compare numbers that should add to the same total. Zero difference means they reconcile. It does not mean there is no spending, debt or funding gap.

What each accounting check does

Levy allocation: operating and capital shares add back to the levy tax budget.

Operating funds: available money equals the levy plus replacement funding minus withdrawn support.

Renewal funding: the total equals its three funding components.

Bond principal: principal repaid plus remaining principal equals the original borrowing. This does not require all borrowing to have been repaid within the displayed schedule.

Read the status, not just the difference

Balanced: the difference is less than \$1; the calculation ties together.

Review formula: the difference exceeds the rounding tolerance; inspect the calculation before relying on it.

Inputs missing / Fill inputs: a required input cell is blank.

Complete / 0 missing: all required cells contain a value. This does not verify that those values are realistic or supported.

Understand a shortfall

A positive shortfall means modeled costs exceed available funding. A negative shortfall, shown in parentheses, means annual headroom. A dash means exactly zero. The reserve target is a stock to build, not another annual expense or a claim about the City's actual cash balance.

What must be validated before a funding decision

Replace illustrative growth, tax-base, collection, cost and delivery assumptions with reviewed inputs.

Establish the full recurring service-cost baseline and an asset-level renewal schedule. Confirm which existing funds continue or are replaced. The model does not prove a district's net yield, a final tax rate, project feasibility or a date by which the backlog would be eliminated.

Model basis and sources

The operating illustration starts with the adopted FY2026–27 levy tax budget and the operating share of the levy rate. Financial inputs and source locators appear on Inputs and Sources. The strategy explains tax restrictions, renewal scope and the distinction between historical estimates and current needs. Download the source register.