

Green Hectares is a program designed to be a one stop portal to existing educational, training and business services. This is needed in rural areas like Parkland County because awareness and access to these programs is limited. This portal is delivered both on line and in person, and is designed to be personal and effective. This timely and improved access to programs and services are targeted at rural entrepreneurs, farmers, producers, rural families and community members.

Programs implemented under Green Hectares (GH) and results:

- Rural Extension – GH has built upon previous facilitators work to create new partnerships and added significant value in various contributions throughout the county. The estimated value to Parkland County of this program is \$70,000.
- Action Research – GH has begun to develop and record a deeper understanding of the issues in rural Parkland County. The estimated value to Parkland County of this program is \$40,000.
- Entrepreneur Exchange – a total of 8 participants were involved in 2 exchanges, with 12 panelists providing advice. They discussed 125 business ideas and made 133 business connections. The estimated value to Parkland County of this program is \$12,000.
- Rural Tech lab Infrastructure and Support – working with community associations to look at solutions and information dissemination to their groups in the technology areas. The estimated value to Parkland County of this program is over \$67,000
- Enterprise facilitation – GH is working with entrepreneurs to help facilitate the start-up of new businesses through both information sharing and by establishing a potential mentor network. The estimated value to Parkland County of this program is over \$20,000.
- Parkland County Promotion – through the GH program a significant amount of positive promotion and feedback is generated for Parkland County – this is estimated at a value of over \$16,000.
- Online resource Indexing – an index of available online resources has been compiled by GH and makes it easier for residents to find programs and support for their ideas and businesses. The value of this resource is estimated to be \$10,000.
- Rural Public Space Improved Utilization – working with community groups to increase and improve the utilization of public spaces – especially community halls, has seen some good results so far. This has an estimated value of \$13,000.

The attached report goes into a lot more detail on these projects and the value to Parkland County.