



WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP LTD.

INTRODUCTION TO PARKLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

March 3, 2026

WHAT IS A RURAL COOPERATIVE?

- ▶▶▶ West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. is a rural cooperative, created under the Rural Utilities Act, which was established in 1972 to distribute natural gas to its members
- ▶▶▶ The history of natural gas cooperatives in Alberta traces back to the early 20th century, when rural communities faced challenges accessing reliable and affordable energy sources. At this time, much of the natural gas infrastructure was concentrated in urban centers, leaving many remote and rural areas without a stable supply of natural gas.
- ▶▶▶ The Government of Alberta encouraged and supported local farmers, ranchers, and residents with the development of rural franchise areas. This allowed organizations to form their own cooperatives to meet their energy needs.



WHAT IS A RURAL COOPERATIVE?

»»» Cooperatives are associations formed to meet a common economic, social, or other local need. As such, they are not focused on profit. In our case, we focus on providing excellent service, competitive rates, and managing our finances to maintain our infrastructure and ensure long-term sustainability.

»»» At the heart of natural gas cooperatives is the idea that the members are both the owners and the users of the cooperative's services. Each member has one vote. This principle ensures that decision-making power is equally distributed among members and not concentrated in the hands of a few large stakeholders. Members can participate in key decisions such as electing the board of directors at the Annual General Meeting.

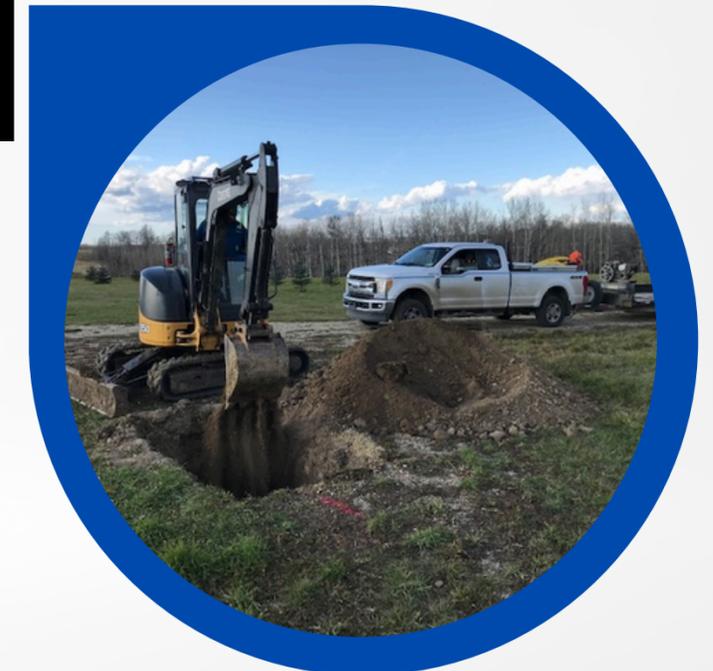
»»» Cooperatives have a community focus. For West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd., this means a wide range of community initiatives, including charitable donations and support for community activities.



HISTORY OF WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP LTD.

»»» On May 12, 1972, there was a public meeting in Stony Plain with the intent of forming a natural gas co-op. A board of directors was elected and that board proceeded to be granted approval for the establishment of the West Parkland Natural Gas franchise area.

»»» By December of 1973, construction was completed to serve 104 members with natural gas. In the 54 years since it's inception, West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. has grown at a steady rate - now serving over 5300 members and customers.



OUR VISION

We are a socially responsible and innovative cooperative and are a recognized and valued leader in the community.

OUR MISSION

We are member-owned and provide safe, reliable, cost-effective, and community focused services.

OUR VALUES

1

We value good relationships with our members, customers, community, and other stakeholders.

2

We value fairness and equality through excellent financial stewardship.

3

We value excellence in service provision.

4

We value the history of the natural gas co-operative movement and the visionary thinking and efforts of our founders.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES



West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd.'s board of directors is comprised of eight cooperative members (all of whom are residents of Parkland County). Our General Manager is also a resident of Parkland County.

West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. currently has 24 employees who are local to Parkland County.



WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP LTD. SERVICE

1260 KM²

Currently, West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. has a service area of over 1260 square kilometres. In addition to our rural franchise area, we also serve the Village of Spring Lake and some residential subdivisions in the Town of Stony Plain.

5343

West Parkland Gas Co-op currently provides service to 5343 risers, making us the 5th largest natural gas utility in Alberta.

40-50

New services are trenched for anywhere between 40 and 50 new homes, an average of one subdivision per year, totalling an average of 50km of low-pressure line installed in Parkland County every year.

10 KM

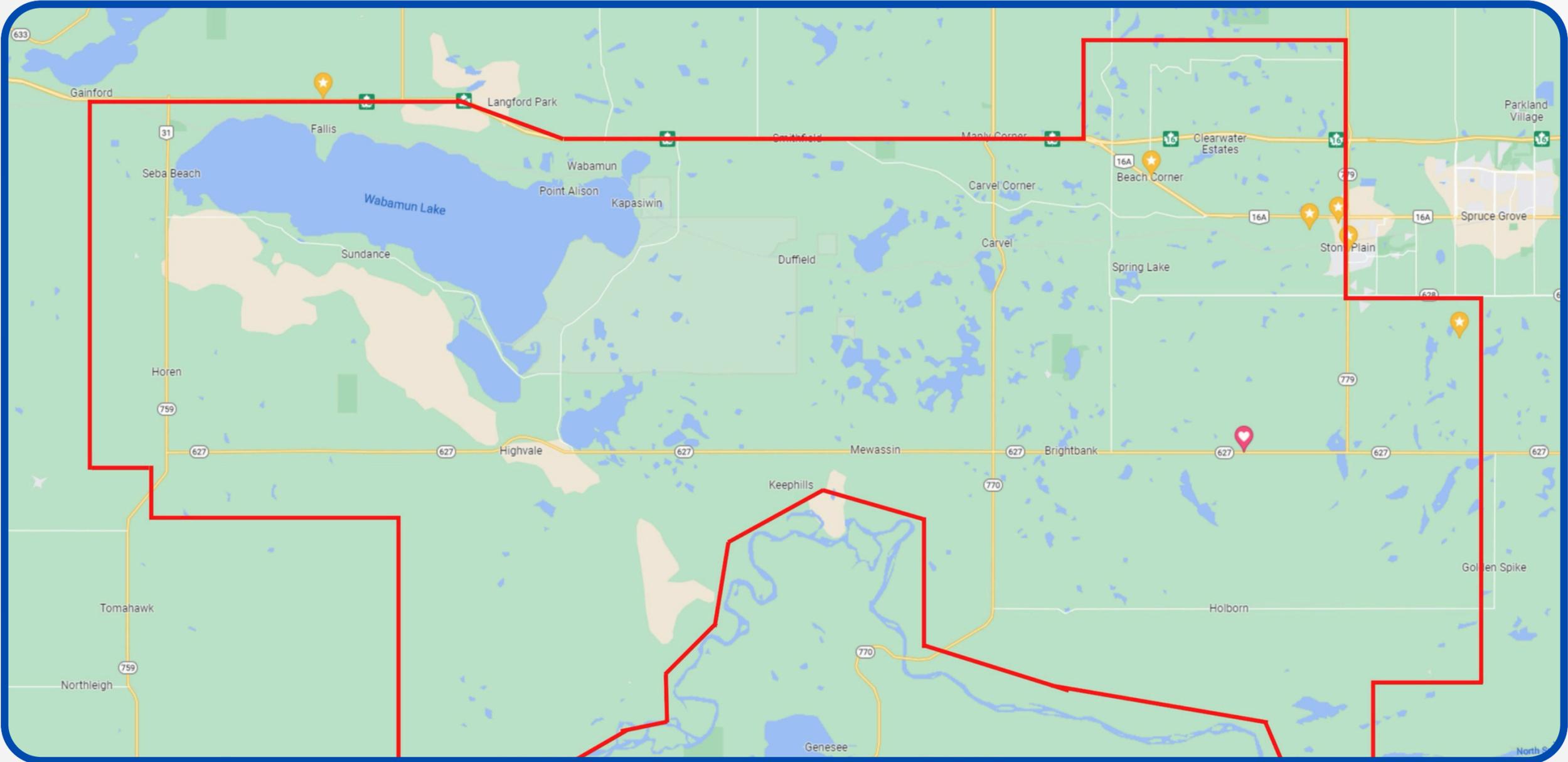
On average, we replace over 10km of high-pressure line in Parkland County every year.

WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP LTD. SERVICE

»» The governance of natural gas cooperatives is distinct from that of for-profit utility companies, as it is based on cooperative principles that emphasize member control, democratic decision-making, and community engagement. These principles ensure that the members of the cooperative have the power to make decisions about the cooperative's operations, policies, and future direction. The governance structure is designed to prioritize the needs and interests of the community and to ensure that the cooperative serves its members effectively, efficiently, and equitably.

»» The governance of West Parkland Gas Co-op is deeply rooted in democratic principles, with members having a direct say in the decisions that affect their natural gas service. This structure fosters transparency, accountability, and member involvement, which distinguishes cooperatives from traditional investor-owned utilities. **Through elected boards, annual meetings, and member engagement, West Parkland Gas Co-op has been able to address the energy needs of its franchise area while ensuring that services remain safe and sustainable.**

WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP LTD. FRANCHISE AREA



WEST PARKLAND GAS CO-OP TANK EXCHANGE

West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. is proud to provide our propane tank exchange program at competitive rates. There are currently 10 tank exchange locations.

In 2025, we unveiled our new Self-Serve Tank Exchange vending machines, which allow customers to exchange propane tanks 24/7 at three locations.



IN THE COMMUNITY

West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. prioritizes community involvement and charitable initiatives. In 2025, we raised and donated over \$110,000 to charities, foundations, and causes such as:

- Sponsorship of Sunday Free Public Swim at the Stony Plain Public Pool
- “Support Local” Tri-Region Coupon Book in support of the Stony Plain Minor Hockey Association
- Hosted Augtoberfest Charity Craft Beer Festival in support of Our Community Pantry
- Participation in the local emergency preparedness week with demonstrations that provide safety information to the public

Additionally, our community involvement extends beyond financial contribution to hands-on volunteer work from West Parkland Gas Co-op Ltd. employees.



Picking litter for the Town of Stony Plain's Pitch-In Week



Decorating Smile Cookies with the Stony Plain Kinsmen



Hosting games for the Midsummer Thursday Street Fair



We raised \$70,000 for the Stony Plain Minor Hockey Association with the 2025 "Support Local" Coupon Book

THANK YOU

