

# University of Montana Western Campus Community Garden

## Mission Statement and Project Goals

2017-2018

### **Mission Statement:**

**The garden provides the UMW campus and local community with an outdoor living laboratory space that acts as an educational outlet for all aspects of sustainable food production.**

### **Goals:**

**Goal 1--Provide venues for educating the UMW campus about all aspects of sustainable food production.**

### **Objective #1:**

*Output: Encourage faculty to utilize the outdoor Campus Community Garden space through class-based projects, service learning projects and/or use of the outdoor space for class meeting times.*

*Outcome: Increase in faculty class hours spent in the garden will increase 10% yearly.*

*Impact: Professors will have more options for class space and diversity of classes. Integration of cross discipline classes may also occur with coordination within the space.*

### **Objective #2:**

*Output: Encourage weekly visits to the garden by Rural Friday's students.*

*Outcome: The Education Department's Rural Friday's Program will continue to visit the garden each fall and spring.*

*Impact: This collaboration will support integration of the two programs and increase diversity of focus activities UMW can offer Rural Fridays.*

### **Objective #3:**

*Output: Continue to utilize Montana Campus Compact Volunteers to recruit and manage a student volunteer base for the garden.*

*Outcome: Plan to increase volunteer hours (UMW students) in the garden by 15%/year.*

*Impact: More students volunteering at the garden will increase their understanding of the mission of the project, visible results of activities, and community awareness that service learning achieves. .*

### **Objective #4:**

*Output: Continue to offer student internships, Campus Corps, Energy Corps, MTCC/ VISTA and Food Corps/Americorps positions through the garden.*

*Output: Continue to show the need and benefit of the positions listed above for the Garden.*

*Outcome: Secure the positions listed above for the garden.*

*Impact: Continue to be able to improve the functioning and programming delivered by the garden for the UMW campus and local community.*

**Goal 2-- Increase production of vegetables in the Campus Community Garden for sale to the UMW cafeteria and donation to local food bank.**

**Objective #1:**

*Output: Update the garden infrastructure as needed to ensure a sustainable production of vegetables.*

*Outcome: Addition of frost free water spouts within the garden and drip irrigation system.*

*Impact: Increased volume of vegetables produced and potential availability of crops later in the season.*

**Objective #2:**

*Output: Continue to utilize methods of low-input farming such as no-till, integrated pest management and non-chemical defenses to insects.*

*Outcome: Higher sustainable yields from a small land area.*

*Impact: Increase in harvest of a variety of vegetables.*

**Objective #3:**

*Output: Educate the UMW cafeteria about the need to serve more locally grown, chemical free vegetables to the students.*

*Outcome: UMW cafeteria to accept higher yields and types of vegetables from the Garden.*

*Impact: Students will experience nutritious vegetables that they may take part in planting or harvesting.*

**Objective #4:**

*Output: Contract with the local Food Bank to accept garden vegetables on a regular basis.*

*Outcome: Contract will allow local people to have chemical-free, locally grown vegetables available to them on a regular basis.*

*Impact: Interest of the local people to grow their own vegetables (for both food and exercise) and eat healthier will increase.*

**Objective #5:**

*Output: Collect vegetative waste from the UMW cafeteria daily (March-October) for composting in the UMW garden.*

*Outcome: Finished compost will be utilized for soil augmentation in the garden.*

*Impact: Improved harvest and soil health.*

**Objective #6:**

*Output: Install hoophouse in campus garden for hardening starts before outplanting.*

*Outcome: Extra protection from the elements will result in healthier starts.*

*Impact: Improved harvest overall.*

**Goal 3-- Increase ties with the local community and increase education about sustainability within the region.**

**Objective #1:**

*Output : Develop content specific youth day camps to educate Dillon's young people about plant-based science.*

*Outcome: Approximately 80 youth will participate in these camps.*

*Impact: Children will have a better understanding of plant-science and awareness of the garden.*

**Objective #2:**

*Output: Develop lesson plans for use at the Dillon Farmer's Market at a booth run weekly.*

*Outcome: Approximately 8 youth/market will visit the booth.*

*Impact: Children will have a better understanding of plant-science and awareness of the garden.*

**Objective #3:**

*Output: Offer a summer adult education series revolving around issues for gardening for the community.*

*Outcome: Visitors will visit the garden and learn of ways to better their own garden production.*

*Impact: More people will rent a garden plot or continue to visit the series as they find practical ways to help themselves.*

**Objective #4:**

*Output: Continue to offer space for the community to manage their own plots.*

*Outcome: More community members will adopt a plot for themselves or their family.*

*Impact: Donations for plots will increase as will local interest in a healthier lifestyle.*

**Goal 4– Partner with local K-12 schools to support healthy eating and an understanding of the importance for sustainable agriculture**

**Objective #1:**

*Output: Encourage weekly visits to the garden by Rural Friday’s students.*

*Outcome: Exposure to the garden by local teachers and their students will increase their interest in opportunities posed by such a project.*

*Impact: Youth and their teachers will become more interested in science-based activities and developing their own school gardens.*

**Objective #2:**

*Output: Continue to use Americorps/VISTA, Food Corps, Summer Associates and Campus Corps volunteers to work closely with the Dillon school teachers and youth to develop their school gardening program.*

*Outcome: The garden will be well maintained by the efforts of a garden committee consisting of dedicated teachers, parents, and students.*

*Impact: More teachers will integrate the garden and nutrition education into their lesson plans and Dillon youth will have a better understanding of where healthy food is grown.*

**Objective #3:**

*Output: Work with the Dillon School Dining Services to start a farm to school program.*

*Outcome: The Dining Services staff will understand the benefits to using locally produced foods.*

*Impact: High-quality local food will be brought into public school cafeterias to be served to our Dillon youth.*

**Goal 5—Provide a working campus green space and programming to support the university’s Carbon Reduction Plan.**

**Objective #1**

*Output: Complete and maintain the Tree Campus USA program for UMW.*

*Outcome: Commitment to this program will show UMW's support of environmental issues on its campus.*

*Impact: Provide a venue for continued environmental grant support for tree and shrub plantings and maintenance on the UMW campus.*

## **Objective #2**

*Output: Secure funding for forest garden development within the CCG space.*

*Outcome: Secured funding will provide a platform for continued grant support for tree and shrub plantings and maintenance on the UMW campus.*

*Impact: Develop forest garden as a living landscape for UMW and local community use.*

## **Objective #3:**

*Output: Continue to utilize methods of low-input farming such as no-till, integrated pest management and non-chemical defenses to insects.*

*Outcome: Higher sustainable yields from a small land area.*

*Impact: Increase in sustainable production of a variety of vegetables for the UMW cafeteria decreasing the need purchase of non-local produce.*

## **Objective 4:**

*Output: Install frost free water spouts and drip irrigation system in the CCG.*

*Outcome: Demonstrated decrease in water waste at the CCG.*

*Impact: UMW will reduce cost of water needed to support the CCG.*

## **Objective 5:**

*Output: Continue maintenance of native plant garden within the CCG space.*

*Outcome: Replant and plants that did not survive previous year, reseed as needed, update plant tags.*

*Impact: An increase in native pollinators, programs for children involving native plants, understanding among CCG visitors of the need for native plant landscaping.*

## **Objective #6:**

*Output: Make heirloom vegetable and flower starts and information regarding varieties available for sale by the community.*

*Outcome: Community members will utilize starts in their own gardens and become educated about the need for heirloom varieties in our natural community.*

*Impact: The variety of seed types will increase across the community improving biodiversity and sustainability.*