

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.