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

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

Secure the positions listed above for the garden.

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:**

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

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

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

**Objective #2:**

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

Higher sustainable yields from a small land area.

Increase in harvest of a variety of vegetables.

**Objective #3:**

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

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

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

**Objective #4:**

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

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

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.