

Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project

Appendix

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Appendix A: Assets and Challenges

Group discussions and one-on-one interviews included a diverse range of food system practitioners to ensure expertise specific to each of the Core Topics (Food Access, Resilience in the Face of Disruption, Community Wellness, Education and Culture; Production; Food Pathways and Systems; Ecological Sustainability) was included.

In the context of this report, an “asset” refers to any resource, entity, or factor that significantly contributes to the strength and resilience of local food systems. Assets may include natural resources, community organizations, individual contributions, businesses, community values, and/or physical infrastructure that supports the production, distribution, and consumption of local foods, and more.

The following sections summarize the assets and challenges identified through the interview process. These assets and challenges are organized by **Core Topics**, while also recognizing the intersections and overlaps among them. For a comprehensive list of the organizations, agencies, and other entities named as supporting or involved in local food systems, see [Appendix F: Asset List](#). Please note this is a summary and does not include everything that was discussed during the process; additional notes and resources are available.

Universal Assets + Challenges

Universal Assets

In the context of this report, "universal assets" refer to elements universally recognized by participants as foundational in supporting and sustaining the local food system.

Key Assets: soil and water, local farmers, community, social infrastructure

Gallatin Valley has long been known for its abundance of wild foods, rich soils, and agricultural heritage. Surrounded by mountains at the headwaters of the Missouri River, the valley also experiences relatively reliable annual precipitation and runoff. When asked what assets support this area’s local food systems, nearly all project participants recognized **soil and water** as essential assets.

Local farmers were identified as the most critical asset. Without farmers to produce food for local markets, the local food system could not exist. The role local farmers and ranchers play extends far beyond food production. They possess extensive knowledge and expertise about the local food system, serve as stewards of the land, and often take on the role of educators within the community. Producers’ insights and practices are vital for the preservation of the valley’s agricultural heritage and the enhancement of a robust local food system.

The **community** in and around Bozeman was widely recognized by food system practitioners as a valuable asset. Participants emphasized that many residents share a commitment to health, environmental sustainability, and supporting local growers. There are a significant number of residents with the financial capacity to support a strong local food economy, and the larger community is notably generous in supporting those who are facing food insecurity, especially students and youth. Participants recognized significant potential to increase community investment in the physical, social, and coordination infrastructure needed to support a robust local food system.

Relationships and the **extensive network** of individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, institutions, and government entities supporting the local food system is another fundamental asset. Throughout this network there is a wealth of knowledge, social capital, motivation, and entrepreneurial energy.

Universal Challenges

Key Challenges: affordability, land access, food insecurity, development patterns

Affordability was the most significant and consistent challenge identified by project participants. The price of land, the cost of living, and labor all increase stress, decrease feasibility, and lead to a lack of sustainability. This is consistent with Bozeman Health’s 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)¹, which identified the #1 priority as access to affordable housing, and the #2 priority as access to healthy produce at an affordable price.

The **loss of existing farmers and lack of new farmers** is strongly attributed to affordability. Business owners and MSU staff reported multiple instances of new hires and students who chose not to come or decided they couldn’t afford to stay due to the cost of living.

“We moved because we wanted to relocate for our families and other work at the time. It was a benefit to have lower costs moving but not the sole reason. However, we were able to find our own facility with reasonable rent in Kalispell, and I’m doubtful we would have ever found that in Gallatin. We always had a shared space when located in the Bozeman area.”

— Vanessa Walston, co-founder of Farmented Foods, MSU graduate

An increase in **food insecurity** is another universally recognized challenge in the community. The Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) reports that the need is growing. From FY21-22 to FY22-23, the number of households receiving help for the first time increased by 34%. See [Table D7: Gallatin Valley Food Bank Annual Data](#). Bozeman Public Schools also reported an increase in students eligible for free/reduces lunch from 20.7% in 2023 to 24.3% in 2024. See [Table D8: Bozeman Public Schools Free & Reduced Meals Eligibility](#).

The **pattern and rate of development** was recognized by every discussion session as a crucial challenge. Participants noted that the valley, known for its prime farmland, is rapidly being developed. From 2000-2021, 67,520 acres of land in Gallatin County were converted to housing.² Participants emphasized the importance of collaboration between the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County and the need for county-wide planning efforts to protect farmland.

Project Participants commented:

“[Gallatin Valley has] the best farmland in the state, which is currently getting covered at an astounding rate with houses and chain stores.”

“I think there’s a barrier that we’ve done a Triangle Growth Plan instead of a county-wide growth plan.”

“We need people in the community who can help us break the zoning logjam. Unless we do — unless we find new, unconventional methods to achieve land access for farmers — we’re going to be limited.”

“We need to seek a time when City, County Commissioners — Bozeman, Belgrade alike — filter every decision they make through this lens of food security and a healthy landscape. As long as people fundamentally believe that high profit developments are and will continue to be the driver of Montana’s economy, I don’t think we’re going to make progress.”

¹ <https://www.bozemanhealth.org/about-us/community-benefit/>, summary: https://res.cloudinary.com/dpmykpsih/image/upload/bozeman-health-site-321/media/e7bcb741dd824cb9a8f8c2c75a822e44/dec2023_bh_chna-executive-summary.pdf

² [Headwaters Economic \(2024\)](#)

Food Access

Assets: Food Access

Key Assets: food access points (schools, food pantries, grocery stores, youth and senior programs), Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), financial assistance programs, local farms and distribution channels

It is essential for all community members to have consistent and affordable access to food, particularly nutritious, local, and culturally appropriate options. Bozeman hosts a broad selection of grocery stores. Of these, the Bozeman Co-op and Town and Country were identified by participants as locations that consistently have local food available for purchase.

For community members facing food insecurity due to barriers such as affordability and difficulties accessing food sites, it is crucial to have resources that can aid in overcoming these challenges. Key food access points for community members experiencing food insecurity include schools, food pantries, grocery stores that accept supplemental nutrition benefits, and youth and senior programs.

Human Resources Development Council (HRDC)

The Human Resource Development Council (HRDC) offers a variety of resources that support food access for multiple vulnerable populations across the region. In 2023, HRDC distributed 1,667,276 pounds of food to help families and seniors offset their cost of living.³ Related HRDC programs include:

- Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB)
- Fork & Spoon Homestyle Kitchen (Montana’s first pay-what-you-can restaurant)
- Summer Lunch
- Kids Pack
- Senior Groceries Program
- Grow-A-Row

In 2023, HRDC opened Market Place, a new facility that offers significantly expanded food aggregation, storage, distribution, and processing capacity. Through this facility, Gallatin Valley Food Bank (GVFB) helps supply Big Sky Community Food Bank, Headwaters Area Food Bank, West Yellowstone Food Bank, Bounty of Bridgers at MSU, Cat in the Bag at Gallatin College, and pantries at both Belgrade and Bozeman Public Library. Gallatin Valley Food Bank also provides food to Blueprint (a transitional youth-centered housing program), schools, churches, and occasionally to other youth programs, senior centers, and programs like Meals on Wheels.

Financial Assistance Programs

Government financial assistance programs such as SNAP (Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program) and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) help families facing food insecurity afford groceries. There are 35 retail locations within the City of Bozeman that are authorized to accept WIC and/or EBT (SNAP). Many of the locations that accept EBT do not accept WIC. See [Table A2: Authorized Retailers for EBT and WIC](#).

Schools

Schools from pre-kindergarten through university were identified as important food access points. Lunch is available at all Bozeman School District (BSD7) schools; and breakfast is available at most. BSD7 staff noted that they purchase local food when possible and are interested in doing so more often. Free and reduced lunch assistance is available to support financially burdened families. See [Table D8: Bozeman Public Schools Free & Reduced Meals Eligibility](#). Participants noted that the community is strong and has proved to support each other

³ [Human Resources Development Council, 2023 Impact Report](#)

during times of need. Residents recently raised \$25k in 2 days to pay school lunch debt. Montana State University provides resources for students facing insecurity including an on-campus food pantry, food security scholarships, and more.

Local Farms and Food

Many local farms are registered to accept Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) vouchers and/or WIC farm-direct vouchers (see [Table A3: Local Farms that Accept WIC and SFMNP](#)). In addition, local farms such as MSU Towne’s Harvest Garden and local aggregator Root Cellar Foods have partnered with pilot ‘produce prescription’⁴ programs designed to get local produce to people facing both food insecurity and diet related diseases.

Many local farms donate surplus harvest directly to pantries. In addition to accepting direct donations, HRDC accepts food from Hunters Against Hunger Program, a Montana Food Bank Network program that enables hunters to donate legally harvested game, and Grow-A-Row, a HRDC program accepting home-grown produce.

Many local farms also share foods through private channels and work-share arrangements. For example, Amaltheia Organic Dairy invites volunteers to help on Sundays, in exchange for produce. MSU Towne’s Harvest Garden, a five-acre diversified farm supporting a student-run community supported agriculture program, has offered students work share opportunities and runs a mobile farm stand located at Legion Villa, a Section 8 housing complex that serves low income, elderly members of the community.

Other entities identified include Hopa Mountain, which worked with partners to launch the Local Food for Local Families, a cooperative effort to support and connect producers, food hubs, food pantries and others to increase access to Montana grown and processed agricultural products. Montana Food Bank Network is another resource, and while a majority of the foods they source and distribute through their Helena warehouse come from national commodity channels, members of their staff are exploring ways to increase the amount of locally grown foods they offer.

The network of organizations and volunteers working to increase food and nutrition security is significant. This section has offered just a thumbnail sketch of assets and activities in the Bozeman area.

Challenges: Food Access

Key Challenges: affordability, transportation and accessibility, perceptions and stigma

Affordability was identified as a primary challenge to food access that continues to grow. Housing costs increasingly consume a larger portion of family incomes, and other rising living costs further exacerbate the issue. Nutrition benefit programs exist to increase the affordability of both local and mainstream food supplies, yet these programs can be difficult to navigate for families and individuals with limited resources. An increasing number of Spanish speakers is a growing barrier for community members seeking to navigate these programs.

Physical barriers to access food and nutrition benefit programs were identified, such as a lack of multi-modal **transportation** options. Participants noted that insufficient transit options make it difficult to reach community farms, HRDC's new Market Place, and other food access sites.

Organizations offering nutrition benefits face challenges in establishing and maintaining programs due to **insecure funding** and technical barriers. As an example, schools are interested in providing free healthy local

⁴ [Montana Produce Prescription \(“Food Rx”\) Collaborative](#)

meals to all students, but sustainable funding remains a challenge. HRDC was identified as an invaluable resource, but it was noted that no single organization can address these issues alone.

The **availability of local food** was also identified as a challenge due to a short growing season. Participants identified a need for resources and connections to freeze, dehydrate, can, ferment, and otherwise add value to local produce so that it can be utilized year-round.

Additional barriers relate to the understanding of food security. Participants noted that food security is complex and often misunderstood with simplistic stereotypes or unconscious bias. **Stigma** associated with needing help deters many from seeking assistance. It’s important to note that this avoidance can be about more than stigma. Participants noted that some parents fear that struggling to provide for their families might attract the attention of child protective services, further discouraging them from seeking help.

Table A-1: Food Access and Resilience Asset List (Organizations and Programs)

The following table lists food access programs and organizations working on food and nutrition security named during this project. *This is an excerpt of the complete list of organizations and entities identified as assets during this project ([Appendix F. Asset List](#)).*

Human Resources Development Council Programs

HRDC Program	Description/Notes
Fork and Spoon	Montana’s first pay-what-you-can restaurant.
Gallatin Valley Food Bank	Primary food bank location. Helps to supply Big Sky Community Food Bank, Headwaters Area Food Bank, West Yellowstone Food Bank, Bounty of Bridgers at MSU, Cat in the Bag at Gallatin College, and pantries at both Belgrade and Bozeman Public Library. Provides food to Blueprint, schools, churches, and occasionally to other youth programs, senior centers, and programs like Meals on Wheels.
Grow-A-Row	Gallatin Valley Food Bank accepts home-grown produce from community members.
Kids Pack	Provides nutritionally balanced, kid-friendly foods to area students in grades K - 12 every Friday for them to eat during the weekend.
Senior Groceries Program	Provides nutrition assistance for eligible older adults.
Summer Lunch	Free, healthy meals are available at sites across the Gallatin Valley.

Financial Assistance/Supplemental Nutrition Programs

Region	Program	Description/Notes
Federal	Federal Distribution Program of Indian Reservations	Although designed to serve only American Indians living on reservations, this program is part of Montana’s food security network
State	Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	A tool for seniors on limited incomes to access fresh local foods. Seniors redeem coupons directly with approved farmers. Farmers work directly with the Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC) for authorization, then are reimbursed for the value of the coupons they collect by a local agency. (This avoids the delay of mailing coupons to the program managers for reimbursement.) Local Agency sites where farmers redeem coupons: Bozeman Senior Center, Gallatin Conservation District (Manhattan), Western Sustainability Exchange (Livingston)
Federal	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Helps families facing food insecurity afford nutritious groceries essential to health and well-being
Federal	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Helps low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency.
Federal	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	Helps to provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk
State	Double SNAP Dollars	A tool to allow people facing food insecurity to extend supplemental nutrition benefits to purchase healthier food, usually produce
	Food Rx	A tool for individuals facing both food insecurity and diet-related medical conditions to shift toward healthier diets. Two pilot programs have taken place in our valley: one run by Bozeman Health in partnership with Root Cellar Foods in 2023, and one run by Bar1Wellness in 2022.
Federal	Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Farm Direct Program	A tool allowing mothers of young children to access nutritious local produce.

School Resources

Region	Organization/Program	Description/Notes
	Bozeman Public School District (BSD7)	Breakfast is available at most schools, and lunch is available at every school; BSD7 has storage available and two large trucks
Federal	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACF)	Similar to National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for child and adult care institutions and family or group daycare
Federal	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	Offsets the cost of nutritious foods served at child care, day care, aftercare, and adult care facilities
State	MT Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs - National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	NSLP is a USDA program that provides funding for nutritious meals in schools; Funding is based on family income
State	National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) - Harvest of the Month	

Montana State University

MSU Program	Description/Notes
Bounty of the Bridgers	Campus food pantry
Buffalo Nations Food Systems Initiative (BNFSI)	Partnership with Indigenous Food Lab launching in 2024
Cat in the Bag Food Closet	Supplemental and emergency food assistance for Gallatin College Students
Food Security Scholarships	Provides a 25-pass commuter meal plan to eligible students facing challenges in accessing nutritious food
MSU Extension	Multiple resources, expertise; Researched-based university resources for the people of Montana; Skill building/how to garden
MSU Montana Dietetic Internship	Applied learning in clinical, community, and food service environments

MSU Program	Description/Notes
MSU WWAMI Culinary Medicine course	Also serves nursing and dietician students
Towne's Harvest Garden	Five-acre diversified farm supporting a student-run community supported agriculture program; Students work share opportunities; Mobile farm stand located at Legion Villa, a Section 8 housing complex that serves low income, elderly members of the community

Community Resources

Region/Type	Organization/Program	Description/Notes
Local	Farmers markets	
Local	Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)	
Nonprofit, Statewide	AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization) - Abundant Montana	Supports resilient and reliable MT food systems through building consumer demand, market channels, and community knowledge/networks; Includes food pantries and community meals in local food promotion
Local	Bozeman Public Library	Seed Library; Demonstration kitchen; Onsite food pantry; Food donation drop site; Community navigator office; Education opportunities
Business, Local	Broken Ground	Permaculture, education on how to grow food; advising/partnering with the Community Garden at Story Mill
Nonprofit, Statewide	Community Food and Agriculture Coalition	Farm Link; Food access programs; New entry farmer programs
Local	Community Gardens	See Table A3
Nonprofit, Local	Gallatin Gardeners Club	Inclusive group of gardening enthusiasts who grow home gardens and also plant, harvest and sell fresh produce from our market garden located at the MSU Horticulture farm; the Club returns all proceeds to the community in the form of grants
Nonprofit, Local	Haven	Confidential support for anyone experiencing domestic abuse

Region/Type	Organization/Program	Description/Notes
Nonprofit, Statewide	Hopa Mountain - Local Food for Local Families	Rural and tribal leader focus; Cooperative effort to support and connect producers, food hubs, food pantries and others to increase access to Montana grown and processed agricultural products
Nonprofit, Livingston	Livingston Food Resource Center	Food access resource for the Livingston Community, key player in emergency response feeding
Nonprofit, Statewide	Montana Food Bank Network	
Nonprofit, Regional	Montana Food Bank Network - Hunters Against Hunger Program	In conjunction with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, hunters who legally harvest big game during the hunting season can donate all or part of their meat
Nonprofit, Regional	Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative (MIFSI)	Seeds, resources for food preservation, community gardens and resources for growing food
Nonprofit, Statewide	Montana Partnership to End Childhood Hunger	Nutrition Security dashboard in development
Nonprofit, Local	Sage Gardeners	Provides raised beds and garden-based therapy for aging seniors in Gallatin County
Business, Local	Town & Country Foods	Local worker-owned grocery, carries local and Montana products

Table A-2: Authorized Retailers for EBT (SNAP and WIC)

[Montana Department of Health & Human Services, 2024](#)

[Helping Americans Find Help, 2024](#)

Store	Address	Authorized Retailer for EBT	Authorized Retailer for WIC
Albertsons 2006	200 S 23rd Ave	EBT	WIC
Big Kmart 7027	1126 N 7th Ave	EBT	
Blue Basket Markets 4	1035 Reeves Rd	EBT	
Caseys Corner Store 1	81855 Gallatin Rd	EBT	

Store	Address	Authorized Retailer for EBT	Authorized Retailer for WIC
Caseys Corner Store 2	1211 E Main St	EBT	
Caseys Corner Store 3	1420 N 7th Ave	EBT	
Caseys Corner Store 5	4135 Valley Commons Dr	EBT	
Community Food Coop	908 W Main St	EBT	
Co-op Downtown	44 E Main St	EBT	
Costco Wholesale 0096	2505 Catron St	EBT	
CPI Zip Trip 46	1210 E Main St	EBT	
CVS Pharmacy 8621	115 N 19th Ave	EBT	
Dollar Tree 4897	1607A W Main St	EBT	
Gallatin Valley Farmers Market	901 N Black Ave	EBT	
Holiday Station Store 305	1951 Durston Rd	EBT	
Loaf N Jug 728	717 W College St	EBT	
Loaf N Jug 729	1910 W Main St	EBT	
Meat Shopp	722 N Rouse Ave	EBT	
Montana Harvest Bozeman	33 S Willson Ave	EBT	
Papa Murphys Pizza	1735 Oak St	EBT	
Rosauers 40	3255 Technology Blvd W	EBT	WIC
Safeway 2999	1735 W Main St	EBT	WIC
Smiths Food & Drug Center 170	1400 N 19th Ave	EBT	WIC
Target Stores T-1237	2550 Catron St	EBT	
Thriftway Super Stop 8	8192 Huffine Ln	EBT	
Town & Country Foods	219 N 19TH AVE	EBT	WIC

Store	Address	Authorized Retailer for EBT	Authorized Retailer for WIC
Town & Country Foods	1611 S 11th Ave	EBT	WIC
Town & Country Foods East Main	200 Highland Blvd	EBT	WIC
Town Pump Bozeman #5 1915	29001 Norris Rd	EBT	
Town Pump Of Bozeman #2 8927	2607 W Main St	EBT	
Town Pump Of Bozeman 7	1871 Baxter Ln	EBT	
Town Pump Of Bozeman 8	5050 S Cottonwood Rd	EBT	
Townes Harvest Garden	121 Pre Complex	EBT	
Wal-Mart SC 2084	1500 N 7th Ave	EBT	WIC
Winco Foods #160	2913 Max Avenue		WIC

Table A-3: Local Farms that Accept WIC and SFMNP Vouchers (2023)

Farm Name	Town	County	WIC Farm-Direct	SFMNP
Amaltheia Organic Dairy	Belgrade	Gallatin		2023
Spain Bridge Farm	Belgrade	Gallatin		2023
3 Fiddles Farm	Bozeman	Gallatin	2023	2023
Bear Canyon Farm	Bozeman	Gallatin	2023	2023
Chance Farm	Bozeman	Gallatin		2023
Cook's Honey	Bozeman	Gallatin		2023
Gallatin Gardeners Club	Bozeman	Gallatin	2023	2023
Gallatin Valley Botanical at Rocky Creek Farm	Bozeman	Gallatin	2023	
Three Hearts Farm	Bozeman	Gallatin	2023	
Towne's Harvest Garden	Bozeman	Gallatin	2023	2023

Farm Name	Town	County	WIC Farm-Direct	SFMNP
Terra Greens Produce	Manhattan	Gallatin	2023	2023
Hettinger Household	Three Forks	Gallatin		2023
New Pioneer Farm	Three Forks	Gallatin	2023	
Gallagher's Natural Beef and Produce, LLC	Clark	Park	2023	
D&D West Greenhouses	Emigrant	Park		2023
High Ground Farm	Emigrant	Park		2023
Borrowed Acre Produce	Livingston	Park		2023
Gasparakis Household	Livingston	Park		2023
Highland Harmony Farm	Wilsall	Park	2023	2023

Resilience in the Face of Disruption

Assets: Resilience in the Face of Disruption

Key Assets: local relationships, local food system (businesses + individuals), Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), the ability to produce and distribute food locally, educational resources for resilience preparedness

The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the inherent risk associated with heavy reliance on national and global supply chains. The pandemic drove home how fragile these supply chains can be and demonstrated how quickly food chains can be disrupted. Participants commented that grocery stores only have 3-4 days worth of food on hand and that when the supply chain was disrupted *“Just in time’ wasn’t just in time anymore.”* One participant commented that it was scary *“not being able to get the basics: flour, yeast, eggs, milk.”*

“The local food system filled gaps when conventional supply chains failed.” – Project Participant

The **Southwest Montana COAD** (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) helps communities in Gallatin, Madison, and Park County respond to disasters such as wildfire, floods, COVID-19, etc. The COAD is responsible for communicating with emergency responders and mobilizing local non-profit organizations during disasters. The American Red Cross, a COAD member organization, is responsible for emergency food response. The Red Cross relies on local vendors with commercial kitchens for feeding, and in larger scale disasters goes outside of the region to have food delivered. Several key players that support food response by providing food storage, meal preparation, transportation, and more include the Livingston Food Resource Center, the Salvation Army, and the Gallatin Valley Food Bank.

The pandemic highlighted the importance of **local relationships** and the impact of smaller, locally-owned businesses in responding to community needs. Participants cited Bozeman’s restaurant network as a valuable

example. Many restaurants reached out directly to the Bozeman School District to offer their inventory, while others prepped food for front-line workers.

COVID-19 highlighted that our **ability to produce and distribute food locally** is an asset. Grocery stores, such as the Community Food Co-op, that had previously been sourcing local food had significantly more inventory and diversity of products due to their existing local relationships.

Educational resources, specifically on how to preserve foods, emerged as another asset in building community resilience. MSU Extension offers several trainings and resources; Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative has a manual on how to dry foods; and the internet provides access to a wide range of ‘how to’ videos. See [Table A4: Community, Wellness, Education, and Culture Assets](#) for other education-based assets.

Looking towards long-term community food resilience and nutritional security, several participants mentioned that food resilience planning and resilience assessment tools exist and could be researched and used to enhance food resilience in the Bozeman area.

The assets listed in [Table A1: Food Access and Resilience Asset List \(Organizations & Programs\)](#) are related to community resilience during times of disruption. During disasters the most vulnerable populations become even more vulnerable. Consistent and affordable access to nutritious, local, and culturally appropriate food options help to mitigate the impact of crises on community members facing food insecurity.

Challenges: Resilience in the Face of Disruption

Key Challenges: Risk of supply chain disruptions, increasing risk of future disruption, and lack of community resilience planning

The pandemic exposed the vulnerability of food supply chains. Participants also identified potential future disruptions, including extreme weather events, climate change, global conflicts, and technology breakdowns.

Participants noted the need to improve community resilience planning to reduce our vulnerability. They felt there are currently no adequate answers to critical questions such as: How do we address crisis situations? What investments in our local food system will mitigate vulnerabilities to regional, national, or global shocks? What is the City’s role?

“The recent pandemic exposed the supply chain fragility, but the seemingly rapid post-pandemic recovery diffuses the alarm in many peoples’ eyes.” – Project Participant

“When you think about [it], why does local government exist? To provide services for basic living in a community. What is more basic than clean water and adequate food? And clean air. We need a few basic things, housing... and food.” – Project Participant

Community Wellness, Education, and Culture

Assets: Community Wellness, Education, and Culture

Key Assets: Educators and organizations that provide education resources, physical spaces for access to nature and growing/harvesting food

Participants identified a range of assets that offer ways to support a culture of growing and eating nourishing local foods, building relationships, and enhancing individual and community wellbeing.

Sense of Place and Connection to Food

Participants highlighted the importance of connecting community members to their food and deepening their sense of place and connection to the greater Gallatin Valley. Opportunities for fostering this connection include physical spaces that provide access to nature and potential to harvest food (habitat along the Gallagator Trail and other public trails and parks, etc.) and local farms that offer community access (Rocky Creek Farm, Towne’s Harvest Garden, the farm stand at Three Heart Farms, etc.). Several participants highlighted the RevitaliseΛηηεΛ, a See Bozeman Creek artwork, that was created by Mountain Time Arts as a unique way to inspire people to think about water.

Community Gardens and Growing Spaces

There are many resources that support people in growing their own food, including spaces to grow and education opportunities. Community growing spaces such as Story Mill Community Learning Gardens and Food Forest, City of Bozeman community gardens, American Indian Hall ancestral gardens, Hannon Hall gardens, and raised beds built by Sage Gardeners provide opportunities for seniors to grow their own food. These spaces also create opportunities for education, mental health benefits, and social cohesion. Community gardens and growing spaces take a variety of forms and management structures. [Table A5: Community Gardens in the Greater Bozeman Area](#) includes a list of 38 community gardens identified during this process.

The City of Bozeman manages four community gardens. Three of these gardens host a total of 87 individual plots. Each plot is designated to a community member to manage on their own. The Learning Garden at Story Mill Community Park is managed in partnership with the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. In 2022, The Gallatin Valley Food Bank distributed 817 pounds of produce from the Story Mill Learning Garden and an additional garden onsite at the food bank.⁵

Knowledge and Education Resources

A broad range of organizations are involved in the management of raised beds and community gardens. Participants identified many organizations and businesses that provide educational opportunities and support related to growing gardens, modern homesteads, preserving and cooking food, nutrition, and more. All are seen as a valuable support network for community members seeking to grow, raise, gather, or process local foods. The presence of knowledge in our community and the implementation of both formal and informal educational programs were seen as valuable.

Access to Local Food

Locations and businesses that promote or offer access to local food were seen as important to support a culture of local food. Participants named:

- Produce Prescription programs, Gallatin Valley Food Bank, other local food access programs. See: [Table A1: Food Access and Resilience Asset List](#)
- Schools and care facilities that source local when feasible (ex. BSD7).
- Farm to table restaurants and caterers.
- Farmers’ Markets, see [Open and Local’s Local Farm’s Flyer](#).
- Businesses that help convert lawns to food.
- Value-added food businesses seeking to educate using Montana-grown ingredients:
 - to support soil health and community, e.g. Timeless Foods lentils (Claudia’s Mesa)
 - to promote regenerative agriculture, e.g. ancient grains (Together Bakery)

⁵ <https://gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/HRDC-FN-Annual-Report-22-23.pdf>

- to reduce food waste and add value, e.g. by using “ugly vegetables” (Farmented)
- Local nurseries that offer native plants and educational seminars.
- Gallatin Valley Food Bank, called out for supporting a lot of connections.
- Bozeman School District, which is trying to source local.

Challenges: Wellness, Education, and Culture

Key Challenges: Food Access, barriers to growing food, and understanding of Indigenous food sovereignty

Food Access

Conversations on this topic often began with challenges associated with food access, which are detailed in the *Food Access* section above. Participants noted that assumptions and a lack of understanding of the local and global food systems contribute to these challenges. Several expressed frustration that people often believe food security is solely about hunger relief. One participant pointed out that *“people believe our food will continue to show up in the grocery stores from places like California,”* despite food security being increasingly impacted by climate change and shifting precipitation patterns.

Participants also highlighted the perception that eating healthy and local is always more expensive, countering that *“locally grown, nurturing foods should be accessible to everyone.”* They shared that there are opportunities to help people eat healthier and more locally while on a budget, thus making nutritious, locally sourced food more accessible to all community members.

Barriers to Community Members Growing their Own Food

Participants noted that growing food is a highly beneficial activity for community members’ physical health, mental health, and overall wellbeing. Barriers to growing food mentioned during this project included:

- **Access to Land for Renters:** 55% of Bozeman’s residents are renters (see [Table D2: City of Bozeman Demographics and Economic Growth Sectors](#)). Rentals often don’t encourage gardening, and renters are reluctant to invest in a garden at a rental property.
- **Access to Community Gardens:** Community gardens have limited slots, and expanding them can be difficult. Although the City is interested in expanding its community gardens, there is a lack of capacity to run the programs, and partner organizations will be necessary for significant expansion. A member of the City’s park staff commented, *“It comes up a lot, ideas about doing more within parks, expanding or tripling what we do at Story Mill Park... community ag... but who’s the partner/parent organization to go get the grants? Who’s the volunteer coordinator? And how many staff people are needed to start amplifying it, and making it productive and useful?”* Multi-modal and transit routes to access garden space are also limited.
- **Covenants:** Covenants, such as those adopted by homeowner associations were identified as another barrier, restricting opportunities to grow food and raise animals and instead requiring yards to be maintained.
- **Time and Affordability:** Whether you’re a student, a parent, a career professional, or someone juggling multiple jobs, finding the time to plant and maintain a garden is challenging. Individual plots at home or within a community garden can be a bigger commitment than many people can manage on their own.
- **Culture:** In Bozeman, cultural and conversational norms have tended to focus on activities other than agriculture and growing food. The increased reliance on technology and shifts in cultural interaction since COVID-19 were cited as reasons why people are less familiar with growing food, less likely to attend educational programs, and less likely to volunteer.

- Knowledge and Education:** Many people do not know how to garden, have lost that knowledge, or have never had the opportunity to learn. Participants noted a need for education beyond growing food such as how to cook and preserve food. For offering educational programming and volunteer opportunities, communication and engagement is a challenge locally. Participants expressed difficulty in getting the word out and attracting attendees. One practitioner described a program with 30 registrants but only 4 participants showed up. Participants noted that finding out about events and education opportunities can be difficult and frustrating. With many events happening in Bozeman, it can be challenging to effectively publicize individual events.

Understanding of Indigenous Food Sovereignty

One interviewee observed that Indigenous food sovereignty is becoming popular, but it risks being co-opted into a cultural pluralism trend rather than being respected as a way of life and a responsibility. They stated, *“Suddenly it’s like really cool. And that’s sweet, there’s this growing awareness, but it can get really swept into this foodie culture, where it’s like kind of a cultural pluralism type of thing, rather than a way of life and a way of being and a responsibility.”*

Participants stressed the importance of seeking input and learning from Indigenous people to gain a better understanding of Indigenous food sovereignty and that Indigenous food sovereignty work should be led by Indigenous people.

Table A-4: Community Wellness, Education, and Culture Asset List

This is an excerpt of the complete list of organizations and entities identified as assets during this project ([Appendix F. Asset List](#))

Type/Region	Asset	Notes
Nonprofit, Statewide	AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization) - Abundant Montana	Supports resilient and reliable MT food systems through building consumer demand, market channels, and community knowledge/networks; Includes food pantries and community meals in local food promotion
Local	Bozeman Public Library	Seed Library; Demonstration kitchen; Onsite food pantry; Food donation drop site; Community navigator office; Education opportunities
Local	Bozeman Public School District (BSD7)	Breakfast is available at most schools; lunch is available at every school; BSD7 has storage available and two large trucks
Business, Local	Broken Ground	Permaculture, education on how to grow food, advising/partnering with the Community Garden at Story Mill

Type/Region	Asset	Notes
Regional	Buffalo Nations Food Systems Initiative (BNFSI)	Indigenous-led and builds collective, collaborative, and proactive capacity for Indigenous food sovereignty. Partnership with Indigenous Food Lab launching this year.
Nonprofit, Local	Cancer Community Support Montana	Garden beds on site for informal therapy and nutrition programming
Business, Local	Cashman Nursery	Nursery, gardening supplies, education opportunities and gardening support
Federal	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACF)	Similar to NSLP for child and adult care institutions and family or group daycare
Business, Local	Claudia's Mesa	Community dinners, education about lentils and other sustainable, local crops
Nonprofit, Statewide	Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC)	Farm Link; Food access programs; New entry farmer programs
Local	Community Gardens	See Table A3
Nonprofit, Local	Eagle Mount	Quality therapeutic recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer, including horticulture programs
Business, Local	Farmented	Value added business, fermented vegetables
Local	Farmers markets	
Local	Foraging Walks led by Jacob Zimmerer	Jacob is an MSU/BNFSI student who leads foraging walks in the community
Local	Gallatin City-County Health Department	Food safety information and resources, licenses and permitting, registration for cottage food businesses
Local	Gallatin Conservation District	Community garden and education opportunities on gardening, resources for producers
Nonprofit, Local	Gallatin Gardeners Club	Inclusive group of gardening enthusiasts who grow home gardens and also plant, harvest and sell fresh produce from our market garden located at the MSU Horticulture farm; The Club returns all proceeds to the community in the form of grants

Type/Region	Asset	Notes
Business, Local	Gallatin Valley Botanical at Rocky Creek Farm	Farm stand open to the public, hosts many events and opportunities for community members to come to the farm
Local	Gallatin Valley Farm Fair	
Nonprofit, Local	Gallatin Valley Farm to School	Connecting children and families with local foods in the garden, classroom, cafeteria, and community
	Gallatin Water Quality District	Water resources education, water quality monitoring
	Gallatin Watershed Collaborative	Collaborating on the future of water in the Gallatin Valley. Stewardship through partnerships, education, restoration, and individual empowerment
Nonprofit, Local	Haven	Confidential support for anyone experiencing domestic abuse
Nonprofit, Statewide	Hopa Mountain - Local Food for Local Families	Rural and tribal leader focus. Cooperative effort to support and connect producers, food hubs, food pantries and others to increase access to Montana grown and processed agricultural products
Nonprofit, Bozeman	HRDC - Fork and Spoon	Montana's first pay-what-you-can restaurant
Nonprofit, Local	HRDC - Gallatin Valley Food Bank	Primary food bank location. Helps to supply Big Sky Community Food Bank, Headwaters Area Food Bank, West Yellowstone Food Bank, Bounty of Bridgers at MSU, Cat in the Bag at Gallatin College, and pantries at both Belgrade and Bozeman Public Library. Provides food to Blueprint, schools, churches, and occasionally to other youth programs, senior centers, and programs like Meals on Wheels.
Nonprofit, Local	HRDC - Grow-A-Row	Gallatin Valley Food Bank accepts home-grown produce from community members
Nonprofit, Livingston	Livingston Food Resource Center	Food access resource for the Livingston Community, key player in emergency response feeding
	Livingston Hospital	Sourcing local foods
MSU	Montana Farm to School Institute	Collaborative program with Montana Office of Public Instruction, housed within Team Nutrition at MSU

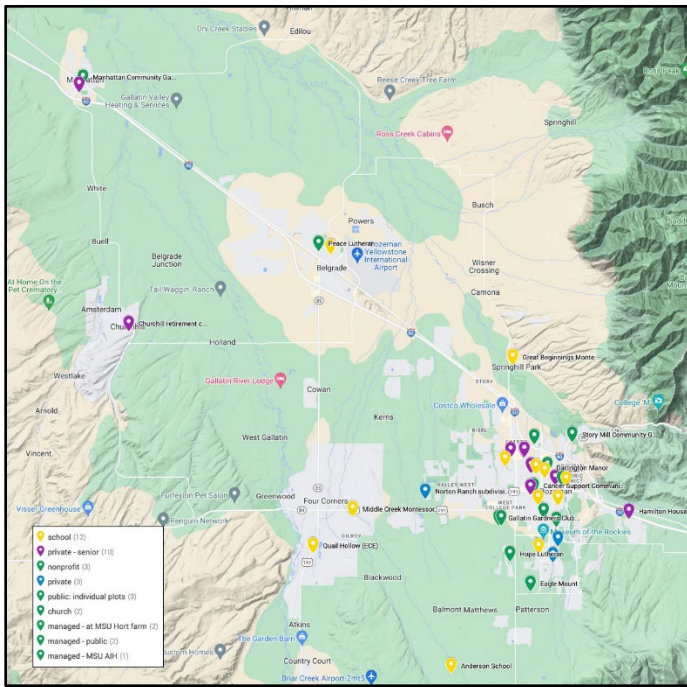
Type/Region	Asset	Notes
Nonprofit, Regional	Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative (MIFSI)	Intertribal collaboration of Indigenous young professionals and elder-mentors committed to working as relatives to build shared capacity for Indigenous food sovereignty; Seeds, resources for food preservation, community gardens and resources for growing food
Nonprofit, Statewide	Montana Partnership to End Childhood Hunger	Nutrition Security dashboard in development
Nonprofit, local	Mountain Time Arts	Engaging public art projects and programs; Indigenous and environmental awareness
MSU	MSU Extension - Gallatin County	Master gardener program and other horticulture education resources, 4-H Program, resources and education opportunity for agriculture
MSU	MSU Extension - Montana Master Gardener Program	Education and service organization for gardening (part of Gallatin County Extension)
MSU	MSU Extension	Multiple resources, expertise; Researched-based university resources for the people of Montana; Skill building/how to garden
MSU	MSU Montana Dietetic Internship	Applied learning in clinical, community, and food service environments
MSU	MSU Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems (SFBS)	Academic program; Interns/workforce
MSU	MSU WWAMI Culinary Medicine course	Also serves nursing and dietician students
Nonprofit, National	National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)	Helping people build resilient communities through local and sustainable solutions that reduce poverty, strengthen self-reliance, and protect natural resources
Statewide	NCAT - Harvest of the Month	
Nonprofit, local	Open & Local Coalition	Collaboration toward stronger community food systems and conserved agricultural lands
Nonprofit, Local	Sage Gardeners	Provides raised beds and garden-based therapy for aging seniors in Gallatin County

Type/Region	Asset	Notes
State	Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	A tool for seniors on limited incomes to access fresh local foods. Seniors redeem coupons directly with approved farmers. Farmers work directly with CFAC for authorization, then are reimbursed for the value of the coupons they collect by a local agency. (This avoids the delay of mailing coupons to the program managers for reimbursement.) Local Agency sites where farmers redeem coupons: Bozeman Senior Center, Gallatin Conservation District (Manhattan), Western Sustainability Exchange (Livingston)
	Three Hearts Farm	Farm stand
Nonprofit, Local	Tinworks Art	Food-related installations and conversation series
Business, Local	Together Bakery	Bakery making bread with ancient grains grown in Montana
MSU	Towne's Harvest Garden	Five-acre diversified farm supporting a student-run community supported agriculture program; Students work share opportunities; Mobile farm stand located at Legion Villa, a Section 8 housing complex that serves low income, elderly members of the community

Table A-5 Community Gardens in the Greater Bozeman Area

This table includes 38 community gardens in the greater Bozeman area that were identified through the Local Food Systems Preliminary Mapping Project. Although this list may not encompass all community gardens in Bozeman, it showcases various models and management structures of community gardens in the area. It can serve as a tool to support the City of Bozeman and partners in their efforts to strengthen and expand community garden programs and consider collaborative solutions to support garden access, management, and production.

This is also available as a map online: [Community Gardens - Local Food System Prelim Mapping 2024](#)



Management Type	Name	Status, Notes, Comments
Public - Individual Plots	City of Bozeman - City Hall Garden	Active, 24 plots, In need of improvements
Public - Individual Plots	City of Bozeman - Langhor Garden	Active, 42 plots
Public - Individual Plots	City of Bozeman - Westlake Garden	Active, 21 plots, In need of improvements (behind Darlington Manor)
Public - Managed	City of Bozeman - Story Mill Community Garden + Food Forest	Active, partnership with HRDC
Managed at MSU American Indian Hall (AIH)	Heritage Gardens at American Indian Hall, MSU	

Management Type	Name	Status, Notes, Comments
Managed at MSU Horticulture Farm	Gallatin Gardner's Club plots	Active
Managed at MSU Horticulture Farm	MIFSI plots at Towne's Harvest Garden	Active – Includes Montana Food Sovereignty initiative plots
Public - Managed	Manhattan Community Garden at Gallatin Conservation District	Active
Nonprofit	Cancer Support Community MT - Bozeman	
Nonprofit	Eagle Mount	Raised beds, Greenhouse
Nonprofit	Unity Garden at HRDC Warming Center	Active
Church	Hope Lutheran	
Church	Peace Lutheran	Active — Belgrade Middle School helps maintain
School	Anderson School	Passive solar greenhouse
School	Belgrade High School	
School	Emily Dickenson Elementary	2024: Managed by MSU Extension Gallatin County Horticulture Agent
School	Great Beginnings Montessori (ECE)	Active
School	Hawthorn Elementary	
School	Headwaters Academy	Active
School	Irving Elementary	Raised beds
School	Longfellow Elementary	Raised beds (inactive?)
School	Middle Creek Montessori (ECE)	Farm
School	Morning Star Elementary	Greenhouse (inactive?)
School	Quail Hollow (ECE)	Active

Management Type	Name	Status, Notes, Comments
School	Whittier Elementary	Passive solar greenhouse, raised beds
Private	Bozeman Cohousing	Mixed infrastructure, located within development
Private	Norton Ranch subdivision	16 plots
Private	Spring Creek Communal Garden	Active
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Chequamegon Village Neighborhood	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Churchill Retirement Community	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Darlington Manor	Assumed to be raised beds, separate from the City's public community garden plots
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Hamilton House	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	High Gate Senior Living	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Legion Villa Apartments	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Mountain View Care Community	Decommissioned
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Parkhaven retirement community	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Spring Run Apartments	
Private - Senior, built by Sage Gardiners	Summer Wood Apartments	

Production

Assets: Production

Key Assets: Farmers, Market for Local Food, Technical Expertise, Financing

Farmers were identified as the most essential asset, alongside soil and water, categorized under Universal Assets. Participants highlighted the diverse experience and expertise among producers, coupled with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. As one project participant noted, *“There is lots of entrepreneurial spirit here. People are willing to solve problems, make it work, and persevere.”* Producers identified local market and ability to sell food locally as an essential asset. They highlighted that the community is supportive and interested in purchasing local foods. Local restaurants also provide value by sourcing local food.

Participants also named assets that make it possible to purchase local food, from farmers markets and grocery stores that carry locally sourced food to the organizations like Abundant Montana working to promote and market Montana-grown foods. Other tangible assets ranged from the businesses where farmers purchase equipment and supplies to seed companies and veterinarians. *See the next section [Food Pathways and Systems](#)*

Producers noted the importance of technical expertise and resources that offer support for agriculture practices and innovation such as MSU specialists and organizations like ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas), NCAT, AERO, and Barn Door.

Access to financing, whether through traditional lending institutions or newer private investment models like HomeStake Venture Partners and Dirt Capital, was seen as vital. Grant opportunities, such as Montana Department of Agriculture’s Growth Through Agriculture program, Specialty Crop Block Grants, and other funding sources, provide valuable capital for improvements and operations. Although USDA funding was mentioned, participants noted the challenges individual operations face in navigating the “alphabet soup” of USDA programs (e.g. AMS, NIFA, GusNIP, NRCS, FSA, FNS, Rural Development State Offices, APHIS, and FSIS).

Challenges: Production

Key Challenges: land access, cost, lack of growers, marketing, misunderstanding of agriculture, and operational challenges

Land Access

The most prohibitive barrier to farming in the Gallatin Valley is the high cost of land. Participants noted that new-entry farmers struggle to secure land without taking on considerable risk or leveraging existing assets, which has led to a reduction in the number of farmers and few new entrants. In 2022, an MSU Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems (SFBS) capstone class surveyed agriculture students, finding that while 48.1% were interested in farming in the Gallatin Valley after graduation, only 3.8% believed they would realistically start a farming operation there. This highlights the perception that farming is not a viable career option. One producer observed that *“people don’t view the prospect of farming seriously.”*

Financial Feasibility

The financial feasibility of farming is a major challenge due to high costs and difficulty competing with larger markets. Specific costs include energy (from vehicles to heating greenhouses), labor, property taxes, and the pace of inflation. Farmers find it challenging to keep up with rising costs, leading many to rely more on direct sales. Meanwhile, buyers are becoming more sensitive to price increases. Growers specializing in controlled environment agriculture sometimes find it more lucrative to grow high-value crops, like marijuana.

“We need to change this and created a diversified system: land access, perception of farming, financial feasibility—all of it.” – Project Participant

Marketing and Awareness

Raising awareness and marketing local food is another challenge. Farmers expressed a strong interest in help with promotion and increasing awareness of local farms and foods. As one farmer noted, *“It’s really just the demand for our products that drives it all. If the City can help facilitate the demand for local food, it’s going to help us out a lot.”* Another farmer added, *“Customers won’t try to purchase locally grown food if they don’t know it is available.”*

Misunderstanding of Agriculture in the Community

Participants highlighted the nuanced perceptions surrounding local food system development within the community. One rancher highlighted a common misconception about farming. People often view farmers as either "evil big ag" entities that disregard environmental concerns or as idealized, nostalgic figures from paintings like "American Gothic" or books like Laura Ingalls Wilder’s "Farmer Boy." In reality, no two operations are the same, and farms in the valley vary widely in size and practices. Even among those selling to local markets, the diversity in operations is substantial.

Several producers expressed skepticism about the feasibility of integrating micro-farms or urban agricultural features into new developments. They pointed out a general lack of understanding of agricultural requirements. Key considerations for evaluating the potential of a piece of land for agriculture include: Is there water available? Is there infrastructure? Will the farmer be able to gain equity in the property and/or live on site? What if neighbors don’t like the mess, the smells, the dust, noise at odd hours, the greenhouse lights, or the coming and going of workers or customers? Is it financially viable? What if someone sprays and contaminates fields or orchards? What happens when neighborhood pets wreak havoc in a field or chicken coop? What happens if the management arrangement falls apart, who can step in?

Producers also expressed concern about the long-term viability of irrigation systems and water delivery to agricultural operations. There’s a prevailing sense that those without agricultural experience do not fully understand the consequences of compromising the valley’s irrigation system, such as lower water levels in wells, reduced hay for livestock, and the inability to grow crops.

Operational Challenges

Farmers face a variety of operational challenges that can vary from farm to farm and over time. Challenges include:

- Operations that require large equipment are facing increasing isolation as development spreads around them, this can make operational tasks like moving equipment more difficult.
- Accessing key resources like hay, minerals, and processing is becoming more challenging as development drives farming operations out of the valley and costs continue to increase.
- Managing and preventing disease. One participant shared the following observations: *“We need to be buying our seed potato from people HERE in Montana. We’re more careful about disease control, with the MSU lab, all of that put together. But there are so many people in the valley who have no idea [about possible diseases], and they’re ordering their seed potatoes and probably other seed too — same issues — from who knows what catalog, from who knows where— bringing in diseases and other stuff that we don’t want here.”*
- Liability insurance and exemptions.
- Shortage of large animal veterinarians.
- There are multiple farmers markets; navigating all of the different locations, organizers, fees, and processes is a timely and costly challenge.
- Availability and access of cold storage.
- Need for meat processing, especially for smaller operations.
- Unpredictable weather, hail damage, etc.

- It can be difficult to scale up operations and find the appropriate scale for sustainability.
- Transitioning to organic or regenerative methods can be difficult and costly.
- Stress and mental health challenges. This can be hard to discuss, and this project wasn't designed to explore any one challenge deeply. However, resources like "[Beyond The Weather](#)" provide a glimpse at the seriousness of this challenge. Even comments like this quote from 2022, when a group of farmers came together to talk about the challenges facing farmers and opportunities to support farmers, can offer a sliver of insight into the depth of frustration: *"There are superheroes in this valley that have spent their lives trying to make it work, but it's just not working. There should be a way to be a farmer, a hard worker, and be able to make ends meet."*

Table A-6: Local Producers in the Greater Bozeman Area

This table includes 68 farms, ranches, and growers in the greater Bozeman area that produce food for local markets. This is not a comprehensive list of all local producers, but it includes producers that were identified through the Local Food Systems Preliminary Mapping Project and illustrates the diversity of producers in the area.

Producer	Primary Product	Location
3 Fiddles Farm	Produce	Bozeman
4 Daughters Farm	Berries U-pick	Bozeman
Albrecht	WIC (micro)	Manhattan
Amaltheia Organic Dairy	Whole Farm	Belgrade
Barney Creek Livestock	Beef	Livingston
B-Bar Ranch	Beef	Big Timber
Bear Canyon Farm	Produce	Bozeman
Belcrest Farms	Beef	Bozeman
BiOmega3	Camelina Oil	Bozeman
Black Dog Farm	Pork, Poultry	Livingston
Black Robin Farm + Orchard	Orchard	Bozeman
Bodhi Farms	Agritourism	Bozeman
Border Farm	Agritourism	Bozeman
Borrowed Acre Produce	SFMNP (micro)	Livingston
Bos Farm	Dairy	Bozeman

Producer	Primary Product	Location
Bridger Berries	Agritourism	Belgrade
Chance Farm	Produce	Bozeman
Chicken Creek Homestead	Lamb	Livingston
Cloud Nine Farm	Salad Mixes	Wilsall
Cook's Honey	Honey	Bozeman
Crazy Mountain Garlic	Garlic	Big Timber
Crooked Yard Hops	Hops	Bozeman
D&D West Greenhouses	Farm Stand	Emigrant
Farm 51	Goats	Bozeman
Farm Fresh Eggs	Eggs	Manhattan
Feddes Family Meats	Meat	Manhattan
Gallatin Gardeners Club	Produce	Bozeman
Gallatin Grassfed	Meat	Bozeman
Gallatin Grown	Potatoes	Manhattan
Gallatin Valley Botanical at Rocky Creek Farm	Whole Farm	Bozeman
Gasparakis Household	SFMNP (micro)	Livingston
Good Mama Farm	Produce	Harrison
GroEat Garlic Farm	Garlic	Bozeman
Hettinger Household	SFMNP (micro)	Three Forks
High Ground Farm	Ancient Grains, Honey	Emigrant
Highland Harmony Farm	Beef	Wilsall
Highline Meat	Beef, Pork	Manhattan
Ike Dyk's corn field	Sweet Corn	Amsterdam

Producer	Primary Product	Location
Irish Dexter grass-fed beef	Meat	Belgrade
Kimm's Organic Potatoes	Potatoes	Churchhill
Knowhere Farms	Raw Milk	Willow Creek
Kokoro Farm	Flowers, Produce	Belgrade
Lockhorn Orchard and Garden	Cider	Bozeman
Milkmaid Meats	Beef, Pork	Livingston
Montana Red Devin	Beef	Harrison
Montana Roots	Microgreens	Livingston
Montana Wagyu	Beef	Belgrade
New Pioneer Farm	Produce	Three Forks
Nightingreens	Microgreens	Bozeman
Norris Hot Springs	Restaurant Affiliated	Norris
North Bridger Bison	Meat	Wilsall
Old Town Farmstand	Poultry, Bake Shop	Three Forks
Peyson's Produce	Produce	Manhattan
Pure Leaf Gardens	Microgreens	Belgrade
Rainbow Creek Farm	Hens, Eggs	Bozeman
Rathvinden	Farm Stand	Springhill
Serenity Sheep Farm	Lamb, Wool	Belgrade
Shields River Farm & Nursery	Nursery, Produce	Wilsall
Shields Valley Ranchers	Beef	Wilsall
Spain Bridge Farm	Produce	Belgrade

Producer	Primary Product	Location
SporeAttic	Mushrooms	Bozeman
Square Deal (Little Star Diner)	Restaurant Affiliated	Bozeman
Synchronicity Agroforestry Center	Agritourism	Three Forks
Terra Greens Produce	Produce	Manhattan
Thirteen Mile Lamb & Wool	Lamb	Belgrade
Three Hearts Farm	Produce	Bozeman
Three Seed Farm	Seeds	Belgrade
Towne's Harvest Garden	Produce	Bozeman

Food Pathways and Systems

Assets: Food Pathways and Systems

Key Assets: demographics, technical resources, and infrastructure

Participants identified that the Bozeman community is enthusiastic about local food and supporting local growers. They commented that Gallatin County has various resources and capacities that put it at an advantage compared to other communities in the state, including non-profits, businesses, academic institutions, retailers, distributors, healthy soil, and residents with disposable income.

Many infrastructure assets support the local food system, as detailed in Table A7: Food System Pathways Infrastructure Assets. Critical assets include storage, aggregation, and distribution facilities, such as cold storage, the Community Food Co-op, Root Cellar Foods, and QFD.

Organizations like AERO, Abundant Montana, and Open & Local support local producers and other aspects of the food system by raising awareness and marketing local food. Additional resources that help small businesses establish, grow, and become sustainable include the MSU Food Product Development Lab, Prospera Food and Agriculture Development Center (FADC), and Montana Cooperative Development Center. Institutional buyers such as schools, universities, and hospitals also play an important role in the market for local food.

Challenges: Food Pathways and Systems

Key Challenges: supply chain coordination, scale, and infrastructure

Participants expressed frustration about the amount of food dollars that are going out of state. Purchasing local food can be challenging for businesses and institutions due to several factors:

- The volume of local produce or meat is often not at the necessary scale.

- Supply can be inconsistent. Availability can be uncertain, making it harder to pivot and create unique specials with tight staffing.
- Ordering can be time-consuming when there are not direct channels to purchase easily from. Farmers can be hard to reach and different farms work on different ordering schedules.
- Costs can be an issue, especially as labor costs increase. Even small price increases can be hard to absorb given tight margins.

Entrepreneurs working in value added businesses noted additional challenges:

- Scaling a business to be sustainable in the long term can be difficult.
- Storage is a significant issue for local foods, especially cold storage. Preparing for the summer influx requires loading up before peak demand.
- Licensed commissary kitchen space is challenging to find. Developing shared kitchen facilities is logistically and financially challenging, with significant initial project development, design, construction, and implementation costs. Managing multiple users, time slots, equipment needs, storage, maintenance, and other services requires ongoing staffing.
- Navigating technical support and finding the right resource with the specific information needed takes time. Start-ups continue adapting and changing as they develop. Having a mentor to shorten the learning curve helps.
- Value chain coordination is valuable for establishing and maintaining food pathways, yet there is limited capacity for this.
- While resources like Edible Bozeman and Abundant Montana are appreciated, some entrepreneurs expressed concern that these resources reach people who are “already converted” and may not be effective in broadening their clientele.

Meat processing has received significant attention and investment since COVID-19. Participants shared the following observations:

- For smaller operations with sporadic processing needs, securing slots can be extremely challenging, with processors booked over a year in advance.
- Given recent droughts and lower herd sizes, one mid-sized operation with consistent processing needs (e.g. less than 10 head monthly) reported that “there’s enough slots for now.”
- Sustaining staffing for meat-cutting and slaughter operations is challenging due to the required skill and demanding physicality of the work. However, recent efforts to expand in-state training opportunities are hopeful.
- Significant investment in meat processing infrastructure and equipment has been made, but “short-term infusions of cash don’t get us over these barriers.” Without parallel investment in other aspects of the system, such as finding employees or value chain coordination and product marketing, the infusion of dollars won’t overcome other challenges.

Financing was a significant challenge identified:

- “Farming always has a high barrier to entry, in terms of capital.”
- In large-scale production agriculture, capital is available. At the scale of small farms and ‘mid-tier’ infrastructure, financing can be more challenging.
- New investment models that leverage longer-term investment of private capital are needed. Innovations in revenue-based financing, collaborative finance, community investment, patient capital, and other tools are promising but still gaining momentum. Currently, investors tend to hold a high return, shorter-term, “grow-and-sell” mindset. More investment in planning and collaboration to pull together private, public, and non-profit funding for complex projects is needed.

During COVID-19, disparities were exacerbated, and people experienced the pandemic differently depending on income. Individuals involved in value-added food businesses, whether production or restaurant, had to increase staffing; redundancy helped ensure operations were supported when employees called in sick.

Table A-7: Food System Pathways Infrastructure Assets

This table includes assets and infrastructure named by local food system practitioners as important to this area’s local food systems and their operation. This is a preliminary list and includes only the infrastructure and assets identified during this project. Please note: organizations and agencies are listed separately, in Appendix E.

Type	Business Name	City	County	State
Cold Storage	Dermer Refrigeration; Cold Storage Enterprises	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Compost	City of Bozeman Compost	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Compost	Happy Trash Can Curbside Compost	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Compost	Logan Landfill	Three Forks	Gallatin	MT
Compost	YES Compost	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Distributor	Azure Standard			OR
Distributor	Quality Food Distributing		Gallatin	MT
Distributor	Western Montana Growers Co-op	Missoula	Missoula	MT
Distributor - Meat	Montana Local Foods Distribution	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Distributor - Meat	Range Market	Cardwell	Jefferson	MT
Distributor - Meat	ReGen Market	Big Sky	Gallatin	MT
Distributor - Meat	The Meat Up	Livingston	Park	MT
Distributor + Produce Processing	Root Cellar Foods	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Finance - Bank	First Interstate Bank	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT

Type	Business Name	City	County	State
Finance - Bank	Manhattan Bank	Manhattan	Gallatin	MT
Finance - Creative	Crowdfund Montana			MT
Finance - Creative	Dirt Capital			NY
Finance - Creative	HomeStake Venture Partners	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Finance - Creative	Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT			IL
Finance - Creative	Prospera revolving loan fund	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Finance - Creative	Steward			OR
Finance - Credit Union	Clearwater Credit Union	Butte (Bozeman, 2024)		MT
Finance - Credit Union	Rocky Mountain Credit Union	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Finance - Federal	USDA 'alphabet soup of opportunities': AMS, NIFA (GusNIP), NRCS, FSA, FNS, Rural Development State Offices, APHIS, FSIS, etc.			
Finance - Private Foundations				
Finance - State	Montana Department of Agriculture: Growth Through Agriculture (GTA), Specialty Crop Block Grant, marketing grants, other			
Kitchen Space	Bozeman Public Library	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Kitchen Space	Bridger Kitchens	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Kitchen Space	BSD7 Support Services	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Kitchen Space	HRDC Marketplace	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Kitchen Space	Livingston Food Resource Center	Livingston	Park	MT
Kitchen Space	MSU Hannon Hall	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT

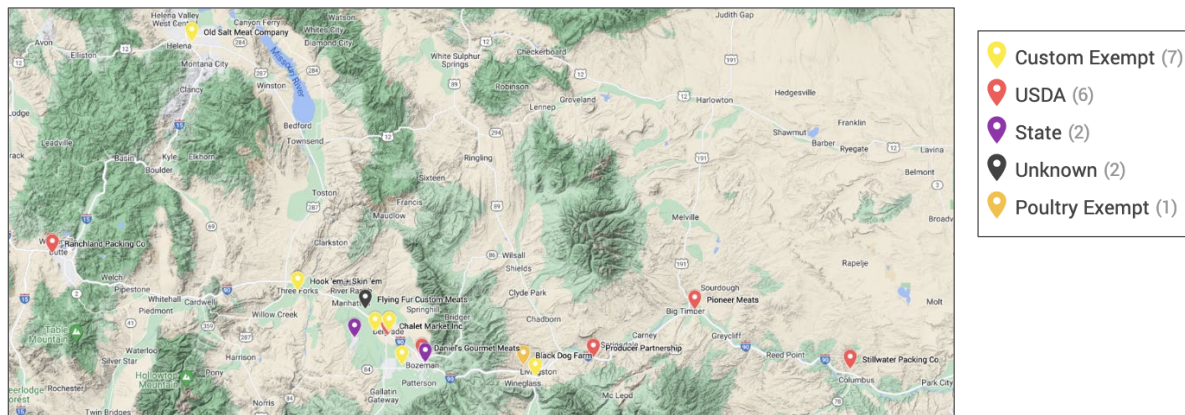
Type	Business Name	City	County	State
Kitchen Space	MSU Reid Hall	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Nursery	Cashman Nursery	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Nursery	Gallatin Valley Garden Center	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Nursery	Hillside Nursery	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Nursery	Oak Gardens	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Nursery	Shields River Farm & Nursery	Wilsall	Park	MT
Nursery	Visser Greenhouses	Manhattan	Gallatin	MT
Other	Gallatin County Fairgrounds	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Other	MSU Food Production Development Lab	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Other	MSU Meat Science Lab	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Processing - Dairy	Darigold Processing	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Processing - Malt	Gallatin Valley Malt Co.	Manhattan	Gallatin	MT
Processing - Mill	Cold Spring Organics - anticipated mill opening: June 2024	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Processing - Mill	Montana Gluten Free	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Processing - Produce	Root Cellar Foods	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Spring Starts	Amaltheia Organic Dairy	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Spring Starts	Gallatin Valley Botanical	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Spring Starts	Kokoro Flower Farm	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Spring Starts	Old Town Farmstand	Three Forks	Gallatin	MT
Supplies - Seeds	Circle S Seeds (Three Forks) - cereal, grass, and forage seed (local business, seed from multiple source locations)	Three Forks	Gallatin	MT

Type	Business Name	City	County	State
Supplies - Seeds	Montana Survival Seed (out of region: Bitterroot Valley, MT)	Florence	Ravalli	MT
Supplies - Seeds	Three Seed Farm - bio-regionally adapted vegetable and flower seeds here in the Gallatin Valley	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies - Seeds	Triple Divide Seeds (out of region: Ronan, MT)	Ronan	Lake	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Ace Hardware	Bozeman, Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Ag Depot	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Alpine Greenhouses	Three Forks	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Aquatech Inc. (Belgrade)	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Churchill Equipment Co. (Manhattan)	Manhattan	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Frontline Ag Solutions (Belgrade)	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Home Depot/Lowes	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Kamp Implement Co. (Belgrade)	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Kenyon Noble	Bozeman, Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Montana Energy Alliance (Dillon) propane for irrigation pump.	Dillon	Beaverhead	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply	Bozeman, Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Rocky Mountain Supply - "locally-owned, full-service cooperative"	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT

Type	Business Name	City	County	State
Supplies / Equipment	Spur Line		Park	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Story Distributing (+ Casey's Corner; acquired by Parkland Corp. 2020-21)	Bozeman	Gallatin	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Watson Irrigation (Townsend)	Townsend	Broadwater	MT
Supplies / Equipment	Yellowstone Tractor (Belgrade)	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Veterinarian	Intermountain Veterinary Hospital (large animal)	Belgrade	Gallatin	MT
Veterinarian	Skyline Veterinary Hospital (small animal, formerly Sorensen Small Animal Hospital)	Skyline	Gallatin	MT

Table A-8: Meat Processing Plants

USDA, State, and Custom Exempt meat processing plants in the area or used by ranchers contacted during this project. Montana Department of Livestock State and Custom Exempt certification: 11/16/2023. USDA certification: 3/25/2024.



(Explore this map online: [Meat Processors • Local Food System Preliminary Mapping 2024](#))

Name	Certification	Certification Description	Location
Amsterdam Meat Shop & Feddes Family Meats	State	Slaughter + Processing	Manhattan
Belgrade Custom Meats & Butcher	Custom Exempt	Processing	Belgrade
Black Dog Farm	Poultry Exempt	Slaughterhouse + Processing	Livingston
Central Park Meats	Custom Exempt	Processing	Belgrade
Chalet Market Inc	USDA	Meat Processing; Poultry Processing; Voluntary Processing - Meat; Voluntary Processing - Poultry	Belgrade
Daniel's Gourmet Meats	USDA	Meat Processing; Poultry Processing; Voluntary Processing - Egg Products; Voluntary Processing - Meat	Bozeman
Flying Fur Custom Meats	Unknown		Belgrade
Grotto Meats	State	Processing	Bozeman
Happel's Clean Cut Meats LLC	Custom Exempt	Processing	Bozeman
Hook 'em + Skin 'em	Custom Exempt	Processing	Three Forks
Matt's Butcher Shop + Deli	Custom Exempt	Processing	Livingston
Miller Custom Meats	Custom Exempt	Processing	Three Forks
Old Salt Meat Company	Custom Exempt	Processing	Helena
Pioneer Meats	USDA	Meat Processing; Meat Slaughter; Poultry Processing; Voluntary Processing - Meat; Voluntary Slaughter - Meat	Big Timber

Name	Certification	Certification Description	Location
Producer Partnership	USDA	Meat Processing; Meat Slaughter; Voluntary Processing - Meat; Voluntary Slaughter - Meat	Livingston
Quality Meats	USDA		Aberdeen, ID
Ranchland Packing Co	USDA	Meat Processing; Meat Slaughter; Poultry Processing; Voluntary; Processing - Meat; Voluntary; Slaughter - Meat	Butte
Stillwater Packing Co.	USDA	Meat Processing; Meat Slaughter; Poultry Processing; Voluntary; Processing - Meat; Voluntary; Processing - Poultry; Voluntary; Slaughter - Meat	Columbus
Whalen's Meat Packing	Unknown		Belgrade

Ecological Sustainability

Assets: Ecological Sustainability

Key Assets: soil and water

Participants highlighted that Gallatin County boasts some of the best prime soils in the state and benefits from a well-watered valley due to both natural and man-made systems. The area has relatively consistent precipitation and clean water. The changing climate is extending the growing season, while also providing more inconsistent weather patterns and challenges.

Montana State University (MSU), a land grant university that includes MSU Extension, is a significant asset, providing extensive research focused on ecological well-being, addressing local producers' questions, and connecting Montanans with this information. Additional support comes from agencies like Western SARE, NRCS, and the Gallatin Conservation District. Organizations such as the Gallatin Watershed Council, ATTRA, NCAT, and AERO also contribute resources and support.

The agricultural water system, including irrigation infrastructure and water rights, is crucial for water distribution. There is a complex tradeoff between wetlands and agriculture, as wetlands are key for carbon sequestration, and converting them to agricultural land can have negative impacts.

Challenges: Ecological Sustainability

Key Challenges: development and climate change

Participants identified development as the biggest challenge. The loss of prime soils, the conversion of agricultural lands into build environments, and the potential for permanent impairment of agricultural irrigation systems were all named as threats to food and crop production in this valley. A related threat is the increasing demand for limited water in a closed basin. One participant observed that too many people are disconnected from the importance of water and take for granted that clean water will come from the tap. The resulting lack of respect, understanding, and connection makes it challenging to get beyond basic water conservation messages. One person put it this way: *“You are at the top of the watershed. You have responsibilities to perform. If you love this place so much - identify your impact, reduce your impact, engage in pro-active positive ways. Eat local food... keep the water clean.”*

Ecologists also noted that while the growing season may be growing longer, shifting precipitation patterns and an increase in extreme weather events increases risks.

Appendix B: Intersection of Existing City Plans with the Local Food System

The Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project offered an opportunity to consider where and how the work of the City of Bozeman intersects with local food systems as outlined in its existing plans, strategies, and recommendations. Although there are other relevant documents, including several developed by Gallatin County, the Planning Coordination Committee, and other local and regional entities, this project focused on current City of Bozeman plans and policies. The table below is designed to give a high-level overview of the intersections between the City’s existing plans with the local food system.

Table B-1: Intersection of City Plans with the Local Food System

City Document	Detail
Bozeman Climate Plan (2020)	<p>Solution N. Cultivate a Robust Local Food System</p> <p>6.N.1. Support the Formation of a Local Food Council</p> <p>6.N.2. Help Develop a Food System Assessment and Security Plan</p> <p>6.N.3. Encourage Local Agriculture and Preservation of Working Lands</p> <p>6.N.4. Support Local Food Production, Processing, and Distribution</p>
Bozeman Strategic Plan	<p>Strategic Plan Goals that align/intersect with this project include:</p> <p>1. Engaged Community: 1.3 Public Agencies Collaboration, 1.4 Business and Institutional Partnerships</p> <p>2. Innovative Economy: 2.1 Business Growth, 2.3 Workforce Development</p> <p>4. Well-Planned City: 4.2 High Quality Urban Approach, 4.5 Housing and Transportation Choices</p> <p>5. Creative, Learning Culture: 5.3 Partnerships for Education and Learning</p> <p>6. Sustainable Environment: 6.3 Climate Action, 6.5 Parks, Trails, and Open Space</p>
Parks, Recreation, and Active Transportation (PRAT) Plan	<p>1.1 Create a Consistent Set of Basic Elements Across Neighborhoods; Add park assets that were identified as in high demand by the community in new and existing spaces (pg. 52)</p> <p>In the statistically valid community survey, community gardens/food forests ranked as “low need, high demand” (pg. 43)</p> <p>Community Gardens were listed as a top 10 priority for investment in recreation facilities (pg. 36)</p>

City Document	Detail
Unified Development Code (UDC)	<p>The UDC is currently in the process of being updated. The process is on-hold while a community engagement plan is created. Below is from the draft UDC:</p> <p>38.300.020 Add agricultural uses to allowed uses in individual zoning districts.</p> <p>38.320.110 Add standards to expand allowances for agriculture within the community.</p> <p>Recycling and composting</p> <p>38.710.070.A.2 Add recycling and composting facilities as items for depiction on site plans</p> <p>Relevant UDC Definitions:</p> <p>Agriculture: The cultivation or tilling of soil or use of other growing medium for the purpose of producing vegetative materials for sale or for use in a commercial operation and/or the raising or tending of animals for commercial sale or use. Agriculture does not include gardening for personal use, keeping of house pets or animals as authorized under chapter 8, service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or landscaping for aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>Agricultural water user facility: Those facilities, which include but are not limited to ditches, pipes, and other water-conveying facilities, which provide water for irrigation and stock watering on agricultural lands, with said lands being defined in MCA 15-7-202.</p> <p>Community garden: An area of land managed and maintained by a group of community members used to grow and harvest food crops and/or nonfood, ornamental crops such as flowers, for personal or group use, consumption, donation or sale, or for educational purposes. The private use of private land (not intended to benefit the community at large) does not constitute a community garden.</p> <p>Farm stand: An accessory table, area, structure, or kiosk for the sale of food crops, products, and/or nonfood items such as ornamental crops (i.e. flowers). See 38.320.120.C for related standards.</p> <p>Urban farm: A facility where food crops or nonfood, ornamental crops such as flowers are cultivated, processed, and distributed. Urban farming is generally practiced for profit or food producing activities.</p>
Model HOA Covenants	<p>The City developed Model Homeowners' Association (HOA) covenants that included provisions for gardens, urban chickens, greenhouses/garden sheds, and farm stands. The City Commission adopted Resolution 5555 to adopt the Model HOA Covenants.</p>

City Document	Detail
Economic Vitality Strategy (April 2023)	<p>Goal 1.1 Provide Opportunity for Gallatin Valley Residents; Enhance the small business development ecosystem</p> <p>Goal 2 Support a Diverse Economy</p> <p>Goal 3 Build a More Resilient Region; Develop a sustainable city, foster a culture focused on climate change and resilience</p>
Belonging in Bozeman – Equity and Inclusion Plan	<p>Childcare & Youth Programming Goals and Recommendations:</p> <p>Goal 1 Reduce barriers to out-of-school opportunities and programs for underserved children</p> <p>1.1 Evaluate and address barriers around participation in out-of-school programs, including transportation and cost.</p> <p>1.3 Explore opportunities to integrate Indigenous food systems, languages, and culture into summer and after school programs.</p> <p>Goal 2 Increase capacity of after-school and summer programs</p> <p>2.2 Establish and continue partnerships with governmental and non-profit organizations for free use of space access, subsidies, and other mechanisms to support youth programming within Gallatin Valley.</p> <p>Community Resiliency Programming Goals and Recommendations:</p> <p>Goal 3 Respond to the disproportionate impacts to vulnerable community members due to climate change and extreme weather</p> <p>3.1.d Develop emergency preparedness programs that identify ways to provide food access during supply chain disruptions.</p> <p>3.2 Work with partners to ensure investments in the urban tree canopy are equitably distributed across neighborhoods.</p> <p>Goal 5 Prioritize food access for low-income communities</p> <p>1 Work with partners to improve access to healthy local food and nutrition programs through the sharing and celebration of cultural and indigenous foods.</p> <p>Community Safety + Civic Health Programming Goals and Recommendations:</p> <p>Goal 2 Deepen engagement with underserved communities</p> <p>2.3 Establish a Community Engagement Compensation Policy that outlines ways in which community members who face barriers to participation may receive compensation for providing input on city initiatives.</p>

Appendix C: Indicators To Consider

Potential Indicators for Opportunities

Below are potential indicators that could be used to track Opportunities, depending on what the City of Bozeman decides to prioritize.

Leadership Opportunities	Indicators
1.1 Continue communication with Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project participants and additional potential partners to discuss findings and feedback, implement next steps, and prioritize and pursue opportunities.	<p>Number of community partners or engagement opportunities with project participants.</p> <p>Memo or adoption of prioritization of opportunities, timeline for implementation, and funds or potential funding sources needed to pursue priorities.</p>
1.2 Develop and adopt a City of Bozeman local food procurement policy for internal operations and City-hosted events. Actively share this resource with institutions, businesses, and community members.	Local food procurement policy adopted.
1.3 Provide opportunities for City staff and leadership to participate in site visits and educational programs, fostering engagement with community partners and firsthand learning about the local food system.	<p>Number of City staff and leadership who have participated in local food system educational opportunities and tours.</p> <p>Number of educational opportunities/tours offered.</p> <p>Number of partners and interested parties who have participated in educational opportunities/tours.</p>
1.4 Build relationships with members of the Indigenous peoples’ community living in Bozeman. Begin exploring the potential for partnerships related to resilient food system development and strengthening community members’ connection to the diverse agricultural heritage of this valley.	<p>Engage in conversations with MSU Native American Studies/Buffalo Nations Food Sovereignty Initiative students and staff.</p> <p>Potential partnerships discussed, identified, and/or initiated.</p>
1.5 Share the results of this report with Gallatin County and engage with the County on their Future Land Use Map, Housing Strategy, and future agriculture preservation planning.	Engage with Gallatin County.

Leadership Opportunities	Indicators
<p>1.6 Identify incentives and other financial mechanisms used by other similar municipalities and local governments to support food access, especially related to accessing local and nutritious food. Determine what creative mechanisms and incentives Bozeman could establish to support the purchase and procurement of locally grown foods.</p>	<p>Number and impact of creative mechanisms and incentives established.</p>
<p>1.7 Incorporate Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) incentives or “market bucks” for local farms and farmers markets into wellness and employee appreciation programming for City of Bozeman employees.</p>	<p>Amount of CSA incentives or “market bucks” dispersed through employee appreciation programming.</p>
<p>1.8 Initiate dialogue with key partners and peer communities about the potential to develop a Local Food Council in this area.</p>	<p>Number of conversations hosted specific to developing a local food council.</p>
<p>1.9 Collaborate with partner organizations and the State Legislature to promote policies and initiatives that support and enhance our local food economy.</p>	<p>Number of policies and initiatives to support and enhance our local food economy that the City has supported.</p>

Land Access + Collaboration Opportunities	Indicators
<p>2.1 Continue working to strengthen and expand the City of Bozeman’s community garden program.</p>	<p>Number of community gardens and number of community gardener users.</p> <p>Total square feet of raised beds added to community gardens.</p> <p>Completed maintenance and upgrades.</p> <p>Number of facilitated conversations initiated with potential partners to establish short-term collaborations and long-term vision for sustainable management of community gardens.</p>
<p>2.2 Work with partners, including farmers, to identify City-owned or City-managed lands that would be appropriate for community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture.</p>	<p>Map or list of City-owned or City-managed lands that could be used, or are used, for community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture.</p>

Land Access + Collaboration Opportunities	Indicators
<p>2.3 Explore the formation of an entity or ‘urban agriculture collaborative’ that can partner with the City to manage, develop, and expand urban agriculture initiatives, such as community gardens. This entity could serve as a central hub for resources, education, and community engagement in urban agriculture.</p>	<p>Evaluation as to whether or not an ‘urban agriculture collaborative’ or new non-profit entity to support community gardens is feasible.</p>
<p>2.4 Invite key partners such as Gallatin County and MSU to consider a broader evaluation of lands in or near the City, including properties owned by other public entities and interested private landowners.</p>	<p>Map or list of lands in or near the City that could be appropriate for community agriculture (e.g. leasing, urban ag, or mixed ag/housing projects).</p>
<p>2.5 Work with community partners including Gallatin County, neighboring local governments, farmers, nonprofits, agencies, MSU, and relevant private sector entities to develop a long-term shared vision for diversified agricultural production in and around Bozeman.</p>	<p>A long-term shared vision for diversified agricultural production in and around Bozeman.</p>

Awareness + Outreach Opportunities	Indicators
<p>3.1 Transition the “Local Food System Preliminary Mapping Project” webpage into a central City location for “Resilient Local Food System” information and resources.</p>	<p>Number of webpage visitors to the “Resilient Local Food System” online resource.</p>
<p>3.2 Expand existing City planting incentives and outreach programs to include food-bearing species. Coordinate with partners and experts to address wildlife concerns.</p>	<p>Number of people reached through programs or initiatives.</p> <p>Number of fruit and food-bearing species available through City planting programs.</p>
<p>3.3 Strengthen the sense of place and the connection between community members and our natural environment by building a strong connection to our local food system and natural environment.</p>	<p>Incorporation of this valley’s diverse agricultural heritage into historic preservation planning.</p> <p>New art installations or interpretive signs.</p>
<p>3.4 Once developed, actively share Bozeman’s local food procurement policy with businesses and institutions as a reference for adopting their own policies.</p>	<p>Distribution of local food procurement policy.</p> <p>List of entities that have adopted a similar policy.</p>

Awareness + Outreach Opportunities	Indicators
3.5 Evaluate and prioritize outreach strategies that encourage residents, visitors, and institutions to participate in meaningful ways in Bozeman’s resilient local foods culture and “buy local.”	Evaluation and prioritization of outreach strategies. Number of people reached. Number of times city communication channels are used to promote local foods.
3.6 Partner with local educators to develop outreach and education programs that empower community members to grow their own food, incorporating creative approaches to engage a wide range of community members.	Number of outreach and education programs developed. Number of participants in these programs.
3.7 As Bozeman expands its compost program, consider how incentives to reduce food waste could support successful implementation.	

Housing + Resilience Opportunities	Indicators
4.1 Continue to prioritize developing and improving multimodal transportation options that facilitate access to local food sources such as HRDC’s Market Place facility, community gardens, etc.	Map showing intersections between food access locations and multimodal transportation options. New multimodal transportation options to facilitate access to local food sources.
4.2 Host a working session with food system practitioners and interested MSU students to review Unified Development Code (UDC) updates from an agriculture perspective before a final draft enters the process for adoption. Consider enhancing urban agriculture within the City, and how urban development can potentially impact agricultural lands in the County and workforce housing.	Number of participants in working session with partners to review Unified Development Code (UDC) from urban agriculture perspective.
4.3 Define the City’s role in ensuring community food security during emergencies and planning for community food resilience.	Clearly defined role in emergencies and planning for community food resilience. Identification of key performance indicators evaluating resiliency of local food system.
4.4 Develop resources about urban agriculture to share with developers, neighborhood associations, property management companies, and residents.	Development of the “Urban Agriculture for Homeowners and Developers” guide.

Housing + Resilience Opportunities	Indicators
4.5 Explore the potential to work with partners (e.g. Headwaters Community Housing Trust, HRDC, etc.) and others to establish creatively financed affordable housing projects that incorporate urban agriculture assets (e.g. edible native landscaping, community gardens, etc.).	<p>Number of potential partners engaged.</p> <p>Number of affordable housing projects incorporating urban agriculture assets initiated.</p>
4.6 Continue to support efforts to establish affordable workforce housing. Expand efforts to support creative projects that incorporate urban agriculture assets with affordable housing.	<p>Number of affordable workforce housing units established.</p> <p>Number of creative projects incorporating urban agriculture assets with affordable housing.</p>
4.7 As the City reviews and updates City codes, policies, and plans, use a resilient local food systems lens.	

Infrastructure + Sector Development Opportunities	Indicators
5.1 Collaborate with partners on community infrastructure projects that enhance the local food system such as a permanent farmers market location, community kitchen space, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of partners convened.
5.2 Convene business development and support resource providers to map various programs available for different business sizes and types and identify gaps. Develop communication and information about the resources available.	<p>Number of business development and support resource providers convened.</p> <p>Number of people reached by resources made available.</p>
5.3 Work with partners to pursue grant opportunities related to local food system development that are open for municipalities or strengthened by municipal partnership.	<p>Number of grant opportunities pursued.</p> <p>Amount of funding secured through grants.</p>
5.4 Learn what workforce needs exist throughout the local food system and develop or support opportunities for intentional engagement with students across K-12 and higher education. These initiatives can build awareness of future career opportunities, foster relevant skills development, and build relationships between students and individuals working in the food sector.	<p>Number of students participating in these initiatives.</p>

Additional Indicators to Consider by Core Topic

In addition to what's been noted above, below are indicators to consider.

Food Access and Resilience in the Face of Disruption

- Number of lives impacted by food assistance programming (HRDC Impact Report)
- Number of lives impacted as a % of population
- Pounds of food distributed to help offset cost of living (HRDC Impact Report)
- % of food distributed that is locally produced
- Amount of locally grown foods being donated
- # people served by programs supporting affordable access to locally grown foods (DSD, SFMNP, FoodRx)
- Number of people participating in SNAP, WIC, Senior Groceries, School Meal Programs, CACFP, TANF (and FDPIR, if extended to urban populations)
- % of these people also accessing locally produced food via DSD, SFMNP, FoodRx and other local food access programs
- Number of access points for emergency food
- Number of kitchens available for underhoused people to prepare food for themselves or their families
- Assessment of public transportation system and ability to reach food outlets
- Food Security Dashboard, MT-PECH

Community Wellness, Education and Culture

- Number of schools with active farm-to-school (F2S) programs
- Number of CSAs
- Number of people participating in CSAs
- Number of workplace wellness programs involving local food
- Number of acres in or near the city used for agricultural purposes
- Number of facilitated opportunities for networking and collaboration
- Number of licensed kitchens available for teaching and community events

Production

- Number of new farmers
- Number of farms
- Number of acres in agricultural production
- Sales volume of direct purchase by consumers (non-commodities)
- Number of farmer/production cooperatives
- Number of days that farmers' markets are held
- Number of food vendors participating in farmers' markets

Food Pathways

- Number of commercial kitchens available for production and value-added food business incubation
- Number of small business food manufacturers
- Number of home processors
- Number of manufacturer place promotion of products
- Number of food manufacturer licenses by type
- Number of local distributors
Number of local products carried by national distributors
- Number of institutions/distributors purchasing local foods
Number of outlets using local foods

- Number of locally owned and operated food outlets

Ecological Sustainability

- A map of carbon losses vs. carbon captures
- List of irrigation ditches within the primary area (triangle) and water rights
- Soil maps for this region
- Water quality and quantity data

Appendix D: Assorted Data

Assorted Data Tables

- Table D 1: Area Population and Housing Units, 2010 – 2023
- Table D 2: City of Bozeman Demographics and Economic Growth Sectors
- Table D 3: USDA Gallatin County Agricultural Census Data
- Table D 4: USDA Census: Gallatin County Percent of Farms that:
- Table D 5: USDA: Gallatin County Census Data 2002 – 2022
- Table D 6: Existing Land Use in Gallatin County
- Table D 7: Gallatin Valley Food Bank Annual Data
- Table D 8: Bozeman Public Schools Free & Reduced Meals Eligibility
- Table D 9: City of Bozeman Park Acreage Data
- Table D 10: Registered Cottage Food Businesses and Food Business Licenses in Gallatin County

Table D-1: Area Population and Housing Units, 2010 – 2023

Source: City of Bozeman, [2023 Economic and Market Update, pg. 2](#); (Source: US Census; ESRI Business Analyst; Economic & Planning Systems)

Description	2010	2015	2020	2023	2010 - 2023 Total	2010 - 2023 Ann. #	2010 - 2023 Ann. %
Population							
Bozeman	36,440	40,319	53,293	58,814	22,374	1,721	3.8%
Belgrade	7,281	7,738	10,460	11,314	4,033	310	3.4%
Manhattan	1,396	1,191	2,086	2,167	771	59	3.4%
Other/Unincorporated	44,541	51,491	53,121	56,671	12,130	933	1.9%
Gallatin County	89,658	100,739	118,960	128,966	39,308	3,024	2.8%
Bozeman % of County Pop.	40.6%	40.0%	44.8%	45.6%	56.9%		
Housing Units							
Bozeman	16,761	18,293	23,535	26,189	9,428	725	3.5%
Belgrade	3,154	3,308	4,339	4,714	1,560	120	3.1%
Manhattan	574	653	872	914	340	26	3.6%
Other/Unincorporated	20,841	23,715	24,088	25,678	4,837	372	1.6%
Gallatin County	41,330	45,969	52,835	57,495	16,165	1,243	2.6%
Bozeman % of County (HU)	40.6%	39.8%	44.5%	45.6%	58.3%		

Table D-2: City of Bozeman Demographics and Economic Growth Sectors

Source: City of Bozeman, [2023 Economic and Market Update, pg. 6](#)

Description	Bozeman, MT
Demographics	
Population	58,814
Median Age	28.2
% Renter Households	55.4%
Median Household Income	
Owner	\$98,495
Renter	\$49,543
All Households	\$67,354
Employment (county level)	
# of Jobs (2022)	58,482
Top 3 Sectors	
#1	Retail
#2	Hotel/Restaurant
#3	Construction
Top 3 Growth Sectors ('17-'22)	
#1	Construction
#2	Hotel/Restaurant
#3	Retail
Higher Education	
Major Colleges/Universities	Montana State University
Enrollment (Fall 2022)	16,688
% of Total Population	28.4%

Table D-3: USDA Gallatin County Agricultural Census Data

Source: [USDA 2017 Census Profile](#), [USDA 2022 Census Profile](#)

	2017	2022	2017 (%)	2022 (%)
Number of Producers	1,969	1,867	-	-
Sex				
Male	1,144	1,128	58.1%	60.4%
Female	825	739	41.9%	39.6%
Age				
<35	136	152	6.9%	8.1%
35 – 64	1,136	896	57.7%	48.0%
65 and older	697	819	35.4%	43.9%
Race				
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	7	0.2%	0.4%
Asian	-	1	-	0.1%
Black or African American	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-
White	1,957	1,845	99.4%	98.8%
More than one race	8	14	0.4%	0.7%
Other Characteristics				
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	17	14	0.9%	0.7%
With military service	166	149	8.4%	8.0%
New and beginning farmers	456	543	23.2%	29.1%

Table D-4: USDA Census: Gallatin County Percent of Farms that:

	2017	2022
Have internet access	88%	88%
Farm organically	1%	1%
Sell directly to consumers	6%	6%
Hire farm labor	24%	24%
Are family farms	95%	93%

Table D-5: USDA: Gallatin County Census Data 2002 – 2022

Source: [USDA Census](#)

Gallatin County	2002	2007	2012	2017	2022
Number of farms	1,074	1,071	1,163	1,123	1,009
Land in farms (acres)	708,728	776,868	702,713	700,462	655,883
Market value of ag products sold	95,000,000	95,148,000	105,970,000	112,104,000	163,081,000
Wheat for grain (acres)	50,645	51,271	51,836	39,501	57,127
Barley for grain (acres)	37,007	25,140	37,291	31,738	25,061
Vegetables harvested (acres)	43	5,401	4,125	6,368	6,198
Potatoes (acres)	5,010	5,355	4,078	6,286	5,990
Orchards (acres)	5	8	11	6	21
Number of broilers and other meat-type chickens	24	71	153	32	124
Cattle and calves	52,350	48,268	50,089	41,043	33,714
Goats	**	877	459	890	714
Hogs and pigs	7	11	306	181	221
Layers	1,196	1,478	3,383	2,415	7,105
Pullets	234	238	**	127	1,327
Sheep and lamb	5,025	3,329	1,996	3,115	2,459
Turkeys	46	**	39	16	20

Table D-6: Existing Land Use in Gallatin County

Source: [Gallatin County Envision Gallatin, Gallatin County Land Use Profile \(2023\)](#)

Category	Percentage	Acres
Agriculture	36.92%	773,339.4
State/Federal Land	39.95%	836,815.1
Commercial/Industrial	15.14%	317,201.6
Municipalities	1.98%	41,548.3
Public/Semi-Public and Tax Exempt	0.46%	9,613.9
Open Space	0.85%	17,738.8
Mixed Residential	0.82%	17,178.5
Vacant	0.59%	12,367.2
Residential Single Family Large Lot	2.12%	44,400.5
Vacant Subdivision	0.56%	11,810.5
Residential Single and Two Family	0.41%	8,572.9
Mobile Home Parks	0.04%	868.2
Other	0.15%	3,192.4

Table D-7: Gallatin Valley Food Bank Annual Data

Source: [HRDC Food & Nutrition Programs of HRDC Annual Report, 2022 - 2023](#)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	% increase 2021-2022 to 2022- 2023
Total individuals	10,711	11,355	8,271	7,838	9,512	21 %
Total food boxes	14,331	13,921	11,796	13,688	17,532	28 %
Total pounds distributed	1,923,006	1,897,653	1,834,867	1,519,283	1,667,276	10 %
Average daily pounds distributed	7,060	7,246	7,443	6,176	6,669	8 %
Average food boxes per month	1,194	1,160	983	1,141	1,461	28 %
Households receiving help for the first time	1,266	1,450	852	886	1,190	34 %
Total Kids Summer Lunch meals	29,333	27,864	40,716	31,848	22,366	-30 %
Total Healthy KidsPack packs	12,475	11,101	10,104	11,407	16,552	45 %
Total pounds of food rescued	1,187,777	987,133	765,326	857,389	905,977	6 %

Table D-8: Bozeman Public Schools Free & Reduced Meals Eligibility

Source: [Montana Office of Public Instruction](#), 2023; 2024 data provided by Bozeman Public Schools

School Entity Name	Students Eligible For Free/ Reduced Meals (2023 NSLP Count)	Total Students Enrolled (2023)	2023 % Total Eligible For Free/ Reduced NSLP	2024 % Total Eligible For Free/ Reduced NSLP	% Increase from 2023 to 2024 for Total Eligible for Free/ Reduced NSLP
Bozeman High School	135	1276	11%	18%	7.0%
Chief Joseph Middle School	137	771	18%	24%	5.6%
Emily Dickinson School	132	531	25%	29%	4.1%
Gallatin High School	288	1500	19%	21%	2.0%
Hawthorne School	29	342	8%	9%	1.0%
Hyalite Elementary	213	552	39%	44%	5.0%
Irving School	93	192	48%	53%	5.0%
Longfellow School	48	278	17%	20%	3.0%
Meadowlark Elementary	102	529	19%	26%	7.1%
Morning Star School	43	424	10%	11%	0.9%
Sacajawea Middle School	204	828	25%	24%	-0.5%
Whittier School	132	278	47%	50%	3.0%
All Bozeman Public Schools	1556	7501	20.7%	24.3%	3.5%

Table D-9: City of Bozeman Park Acreage Data

Source: City of Bozeman, 2023 Parks, Recreation, and Active Transportation Plan, pg 26

Number of City Parks	91
Number of Linear Parks	24
City-Owned Acres of Parks	895
Open Space Acres	390
County Owned Acres (within the city)	108
Private Owned Acres	41

Table D-10: Registered Cottage Food Businesses and Food Business Licenses in Gallatin County

Total numbers from Gallatin City-County Health Department, as of April 2024. Note: some cottage food vendors may no longer be active. Some licensed businesses hold multiple food business licenses, so the actual number of food establishments is less than the total noted.

Town	Registered Cottage Food Businesses	Permitted Food Businesses Includes: schools, restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries, bars, caterers, manufacturers, warehouses
Belgrade	10	122
Big Sky	0	43
Bozeman	41	546
Gallatin Gateway	0	23
Logan	0	1
Manhattan	11	24
Three Forks	5	29
West Yellowstone	3	71
Willow Creek	0	2
TOTAL:	70	861 (est. 792 with simple duplicates removed, e.g.: 69 are second permits of a different type for the same entity at the same location)

Assorted Figures

- Figure D 1: Household Food Insecurity in Gallatin County, 2020
- Figure D 2: Gallatin County Food Access and Nutrition
- Figure D 3: Affordability of Food & Groceries
- Figure D 4: Greater Bozeman Area Crop Map

Figure D-1: Household Food Insecurity in Gallatin County, 2020

Source: [Feeding America](#), 2020

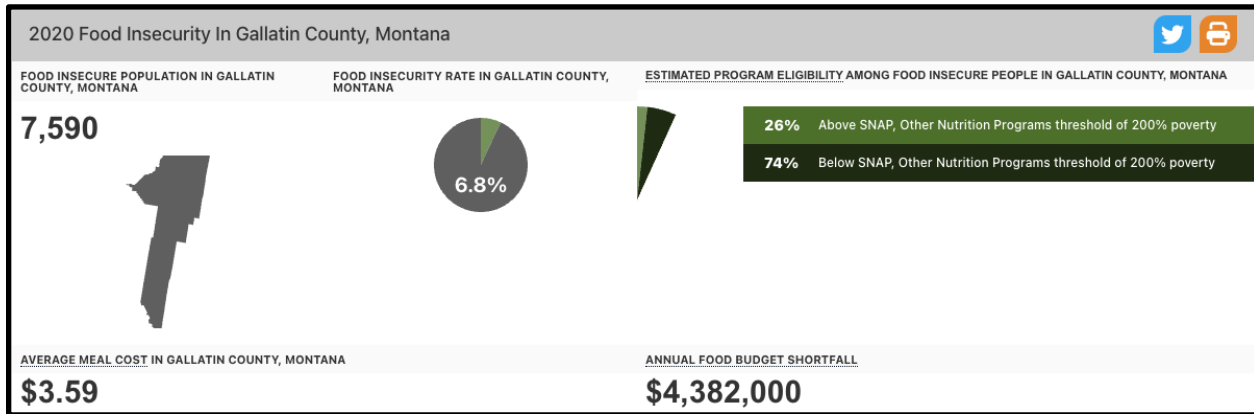
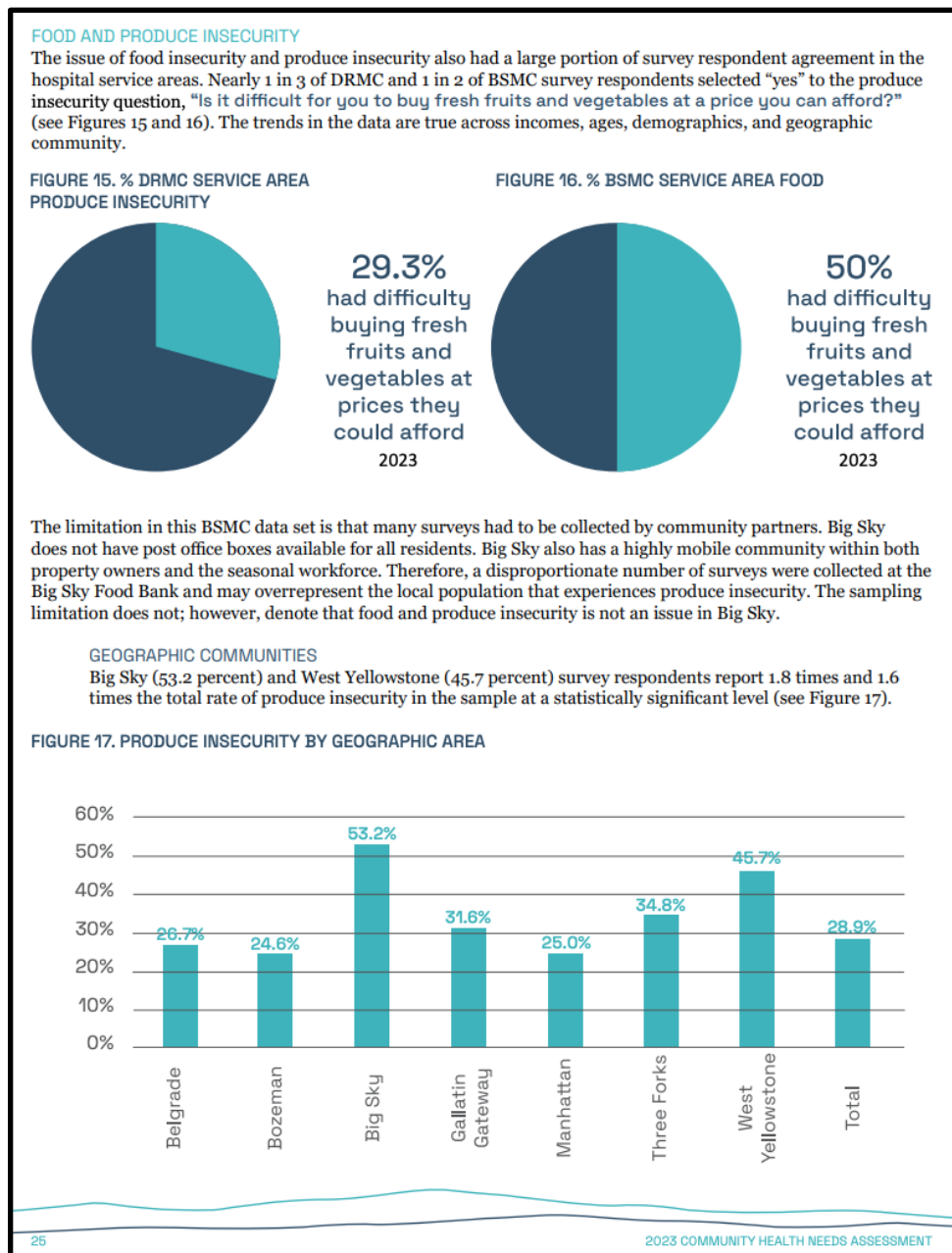


Figure D-2: Gallatin County Food Access and Nutrition

Source: 2023 [Community Health Needs Assessment](#), Bozeman Health

“In 2019, 22.5% of Gallatin County...meet the limited food access measure from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas. Gallatin County has low food access U.S. Census Tracts with low food access including the area south of West Main Street and Cottonwood Road and South 19th Avenue in Bozeman.” (Page 20)



“The 2020 Bozeman Health CHNA identified low food access (do not live within one-half mile of a grocery store) as an issue for 25,500 residents (22.5 percent) of the total service area. The CHNA findings also included food insecurity, access to affordable healthy food, fruit/vegetable consumption, and rates of being overweight and obese as areas of opportunity. As a result, two-thirds of area residents reported not consuming five or more fruits and vegetables per day in 2020, which is a trend in the wrong direction (51 percent in 2011, 39 percent in 2014, 31 percent in 2017, and 33 percent in 2020). Only one-quarter (27 percent) of low-income residents reported eating five fruits/vegetables per day in 2020. Black, Indigenous, People of Color populations also reported eating less fruits/vegetables, which result in modifiable health risks.

At Bozeman Health, nutrition in the form of food insecurity is measured in Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) screeners where the number of food insecure patients are identified, and patients are provided with Produce Prescription Program (PPP) referrals that deliver fresh fruits and vegetables to their front door. The PPP is an example of our nutrition-focused programming piloted in the summer of 2023 and includes a program evaluation component that measures changes in biometrics and behaviors. Using a social determinants of health screener within the electronic health record, Bozeman Health identified patient families who are food insecure and also have a health condition that could be improved by eating fresh fruits and vegetables. These families received local fruits and vegetables delivered to their door for 16 weeks. Similar programs across the state have seen improvements in biometrics like A1C and cholesterol.” (Page 61)

Figure D-3: Affordability of Food & Groceries

Source: [2022 Community Needs Assessment](#), HRDC

Food & Groceries

Degree of need: **affordability**

Over 37% of all respondents reported the cost of groceries being the largest burden for food and nutrition with 83% relying on grocery stores for food. 42% of respondents resorted to reducing their overall living costs but avoiding eating at restaurants and/or cutting down on groceries. 90 individuals were forced to forgo meals completely in the last year. The demand for HRDC food bank services has drastically increased at all three locations with over 65% of our customers accessing food and nutrition support.

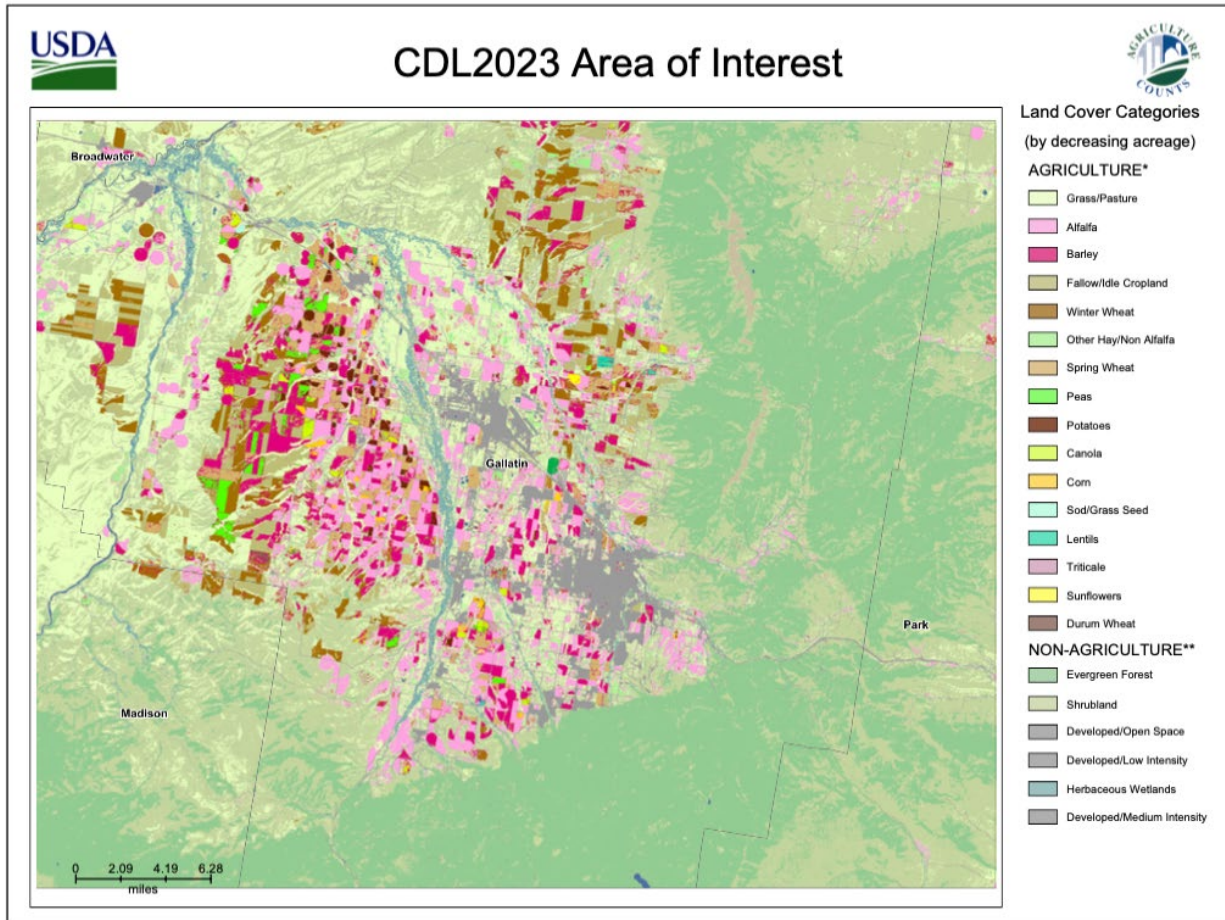
“The cost of items is shocking still to me. I have to weigh the product and the cost of that product. A lot of times I put the item back because I can not justify the cost in my mind.”

“The high cost of food means I buy/eat less, every week it goes higher. I only get what I have to. I do not cook, and eating out is too much.”

“Food and groceries was the 3rd greatest individual need for Bozeman respondents, which is a significant increase from the last assessment where it ranked 7th. At the community level, it also jumped up significantly from the 7th greatest concern to 4th. HRDC’s Gallatin Valley Food Bank in Bozeman has seen this drastic spike in need, with 137 new households accessing services just in March 2023. As of June 2023, over 1.5 million pounds of food have been distributed.” (Page 20)

Figure D-4: Greater Bozeman Area Crop Map

Source: USDA, [Cropland Data Layer](#), 2023



Appendix E: Resources + References

Regional Resources

- Community Needs Assessments
 - Gallatin County Health Department
 - [2022 Report](#)
 - [Gallatin County CHIP 2019-2021](#)
 - Bozeman Health
 - [2023 Community Health Needs Assessment](#)
 - Human Resources Development Council
 - [2022 Community Needs Assessment](#)
 - [2022 Impact Report](#)
 - [2019 Needs Assessment](#)
 - MSU Extension state-wide needs assessment/priorities for learning:
 - MSU Extension [2019 Health and Nutrition Statewide Needs Assessment](#)
 - MSU Extension [2022 Statewide Needs Assessment Report](#)
 - NEW, anticipated release fall 2024: Montana Local Food Systems survey findings. Part of MSU Extension efforts to further increase efficacy and efficiency of food system supports.
- [Economic Value and Impact of Local Food in Montana](#). Sept 2022. Highland Economics.
- Gallatin County community food system capacity assessment: Indicators of change in development, embeddedness, and integration. 2010. Robbins.
- Food Development Center Study for the Prospera Business Network and MT Department of Agriculture. May 2021. Montana Manufacturing Extension Center.
- Housing and the Food System: A Seat at the Table. 2021. Open & Local Coalition, detailed discussion notes.
- How can we better support beginning farmers & ranchers? 2022. Community Food and Agriculture (CFAC), detailed discussion notes.
- MSU Sustainable Foods and Bioenergy Systems (SFBS) Capstone Course (SFBS 499)
 - Dec 2021. Community Garden Expansion in the City of Bozeman.
 - Dec 2022. Challenges and Opportunities Facing New-Entrant Farmers in the Gallatin Valley.
 - Dec 2023. Municipal Government Strategies for Nurturing a Robust Local Food System in Bozeman.
- [Perceptions and Responses of Diversified Farm Producers in the Northern Great Plains to the Early Stage of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). 2021. Ebel, Ahmed, Warne, Moxley, Grimberg, Jarchow, Menalled.
- [Role of Wild Food Environments for Cultural Identity, Food Security, and Dietary Quality in a Rural American State](#). 2022. Ahmed, Warne, Stewart, Shanks, Dupuis.
- [Sustaining Farmers Market Success. The Economic Contributions of Farmers Markets in Montana](#). June 2022. Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana.

Resources For Municipalities + Local Food Councils

- [Data Resources for Food System Assessments](#). 2023. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
- [The Economics of Local Food Systems: A Toolkit to Guide Community Discussions, Assessments and Choices](#). 2016. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service.

- [Food Policy Councils: Lessons Learned](#). 2009. Harper, Shattuck, Holt-Gimenez, Alkon, Lambrick.
- [Food System Resilience: A Planning Guide for Local Governments](#). 2022. John Hopkins CLF, Elsie Moore, Erin Biehl, Meg Burke, Karen Bassarab, Caitlin Misiaszek, and Roni Neff.
- [Food System Resilience Planning and the Climate Crisis](#). 2024. Center for Agriculture & Food Systems, Vermont Law School, Harris and Nelson
- [Lessons from Food Policy Council Governance](#). 2019. John Hopkins. Bassarab. Clark. Santo. Palmer.
- [Municipal Zoning for Local Foods in Iowa: A Guidebook for Reducing Local Regulatory Barriers to Local Foods](#). Iowa State University.
- [Zoning for Urban Agriculture: A Guide for Updating Your Community’s Laws to Support Healthy Food Production and Access](#). March 2024.

Community Resources

- [Beyond the Weather](#): a resource for mental health and stress management. Montana Department of Agriculture + Northern Broadcasting System.
- [Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook](#) - A Resident’s Guide
- [Montana Team Nutrition Training and Resources](#)
- [Sourcing Montana Products](#), Montana Department of Agriculture
- [Urban Grower Resources from USDA](#) | Farmers.gov

Appendix F: Asset List

This table includes businesses, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, institutions, programs, and other entities identified as assets throughout the project. The column highlighted in blue indicates whether the asset is directly related or relevant to each of the Core Topics. This list is not exhaustive of all assets related to the local food system but provides a snapshot of those listed by project participants.

Table F-1: Asset List

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Business - Producer	3 Fiddles Farm				X		
Business - Producer	4 Daughters Farm				X		
Business	Ace Hardware			X	X		
Nonprofit	AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization) - Abundant Montana	X	X	X	X	X	Supports resilient and reliable MT food systems through building consumer demand, market channels, and community knowledge/networks; Includes food pantries and community meals in local food promotion
Business	Ag Depot				X		
Business - Producer	Albrecht				X		
Business	Alpine Greenhouses				X		
Business - Producer	Amaltheia Organic Dairy				X		
Business	Amsterdam Meat Shop & Feddes Family Meats			X	X		
Business	Aquatech Inc. (Belgrade)				X		
Nonprofit	ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas)			X	X	X	Program of NCAT. Resources for producers, technical assistance, Agri Solar, employee clearing house for small farms.
Business	Azure Standard			X	X		Distributor based in OR. Delivers to Bozeman once a month.
Business	Barn2Door			X	X		Resources for producers
Business - Producer	Barney Creek Livestock				X		
Business - Producer	B-Bar Ranch				X		
Business - Producer	Bear Canyon Farm				X		
Business - Producer	Belcrest Farms				X		
Business	Belgrade Custom Meats & Butcher				X		
Business - Producer	BiOmega3				X		
Business - Producer	Black Dog Farm				X		
Business - Producer	Black Robin Farm + Orchard				X		
MSU	Blackstone LaunchPad			X	X		Fosters entrepreneurship and innovation. Venture support and mentorship available for free for MSU students and alumni
Business - Producer	Bodhi Farms				X		
Business - Producer	Border Farm				X		
Business - Producer	Borrowed Acre Produce				X		

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Business - Producer	Bos Farm				X		
MSU	Bounty of the Bridgers	X					Campus food pantry
Agency, Institution, Government	Bozeman Public Library	X	X	X			Seed Library; Demonstration kitchen; Onsite food pantry; Food donation drop site; Community navigator office; Education opportunities
Agency, Institution, Government	Bozeman Public School District (BSD7)	X	X				Breakfast is available at most schools, lunch is available at every school; BSD7 has storage available and two large trucks.
Business - Producer	Bridger Berries				X		
Business	Bridger Kitchens				X		
Business	Broken Ground	X	X			X	Permaculture, education on how to grow food, advising/partnering with the Community Garden at Story Mill
MSU	Buffalo Nations Food Systems Initiative (BNFSI)	X	X	X	X	X	Indigenous-led and builds collective, collaborative, and proactive capacity for Indigenous food sovereignty. Partnership with Indigenous Food Lab launching this year.
Nonprofit	Cancer Community Support Montana		X				Garden beds on site for informal therapy and nutrition programming.
Business	Cashman Nursery		X		X	X	Nursery, gardening supplies, education opportunities and gardening support
MSU	Cat in the Bag Food Closet	X					Supplemental and emergency food assistance for Gallatin College Students
Business	Central Park Meats				X		
Business	Chalet Market Inc				X		
Business - Producer	Chance Farm				X		
Business - Producer	Chicken Creek Homestead				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACF)	X	X				Similar to NSLP for child and adult care institutions and family or group daycare
Agency, Institution, Government	Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)	X					Offsets the cost of nutritious foods served at child care, day care, aftercare, and adult care facilities
Business	Churchill Equipment Co. (Manhattan)				X		
Business	Circle S Seeds (Three Forks) - cereal, grass, and forage seed (local business, seed from multiple source locations)				X		
Business	City of Bozeman Compost				X	X	
Business	Claudia's Mesa		X	X			Community dinners, education about lentils and other sustainable, local crops.
Business	Clearwater Credit Union (opening in Bozeman)				X		
Business - Producer	Cloud Nine Farm				X		
Business	Cold Spring Organics - anticipated mill opening: June 2024				X		
Business	Cold storage enterprises			X			

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Nonprofit	Community Food and Agriculture Coalition (CFAC)	X	X	X	X	X	Farm Link, Food access programs, New entry farmer programs.
Business	Community Food Co-op			X	X		Independent, community-owned grocery store selling local and organic foods.
Misc.	Community Gardens	X	X				See Table A3
Agency, Institution, Government	Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)	X					
Business - Producer	Cook's Honey				X		
Business - Producer	Crazy Mountain Garlic				X		
Business - Producer	Crooked Yard Hops				X		
Business	Crowdfund Montana				X		
Business - Producer	D&D West Greenhouses				X		
Business	Daniel's Gourmet Meats				X		
Business	Darigold Processing				X		
Business	Dermer Refrigeration; Cold Storage Enterprises				X		
Business	Dirt Capital				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	Double SNAP Dollars	X					A tool to allow people facing food insecurity to extend supplemental nutrition benefits to purchase healthier food, usually produce
Nonprofit	Eagle Mount		X				Quality therapeutic recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer, including horticulture programs.
Business	Edible Bozeman			X			Bozeman food magazine and local food guide
Business - Producer	Farm 51				X		
Business - Producer	Farm Fresh Eggs				X		
Business	Farmented		X	X			Value added business, fermented vegetables
Misc.	Farmers markets	X	X	X	X		
Business - Producer	Feddes Family Meats				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	Federal Distribution Program of Indian Reservations	X					Although designed to serve only American Indians living on reservations, this program is part of Montana's food security network
Business	First Interstate Bank				X		
Business	Flying Fur Custom Meats				X		
Misc.	Food Rx	X					A tool for individuals facing both food insecurity and diet-related medical conditions to shift toward healthier diets. Two pilot programs have run in our valley: one run by Bozeman Health in partnership with Root Cellar Foods in 2023, and one run by Bar1Wellness in 2022.
MSU	Food Security Scholarships	X					Provides a 25-pass commuter meal plan to eligible students facing challenges in accessing nutritious food
Misc.	Foraging Walks led by Jacob Zimmerer		X				Jacob is an MSU/BNFSI student who leads foraging walks in the community
Business	Frontline Ag Solutions				X		

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Agency, Institution, Government	Gallatin City-County Health Department		X	X			Food safety information and resources, licenses and permitting, registration for cottage food businesses.
Agency, Institution, Government	Gallatin Conservation District		X	X	X	X	Community garden and education opportunities on gardening, resources for producers
Business	Gallatin County Fairgrounds				X		
Nonprofit	Gallatin Gardeners Club	X	X				Inclusive group of gardening enthusiasts who grow home gardens and also plant, harvest and sell fresh produce from our market garden located at the MSU Horticulture farm. The Club returns all proceeds to the community in the form of grants.
Business - Producer	Gallatin Grassfed				X		
Business - Producer	Gallatin Grown				X		
Business - Producer	Gallatin Valley Botanical at Rocky Creek Farm		X		X		Farm stand open to the public, hosts many events and opportunities for community members to come to the farm
Nonprofit	Gallatin Valley Farm Fair		X				
Nonprofit	Gallatin Valley Farm to School		X				Connecting children and families with local foods in the garden, classroom, cafeteria, and community.
Business	Gallatin Valley Garden Center				X		
Nonprofit	Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLTL)				X	X	Land conservation. Trails, for access.
Business	Gallatin Valley Malt Co.				X		
Nonprofit	Gallatin Valley Newcomers Club			X			Active group that could potentially be an opportunity to connect with new people in the community (has not had a strong connection to local food before)
Agency, Institution, Government	Gallatin Water Quality District		X		X	X	Water resources education, water quality monitoring.
Nonprofit	Gallatin Watershed Collaborative		X		X	X	Collaborating on the future of water in the Gallatin Valley. Stewardship through partnerships, education, restoration, and individual empowerment.
Business - Producer	Gasparakis Household				X		
Business - Producer	Good Mama Farm				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	Grant Opportunities - Growth Through Agriculture			X			MT Department of Ag
Agency, Institution, Government	Grant Opportunities - Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)			X			MT Department of Labor & Industry. Off-set a portion of skills-based training
Business - Producer	GroEat Garlic Farm				X		
Business	Grotto Meats				X		
Business	Happel's Clean Cut Meats LLC				X		
Business	Happy Trash Can Curbside Compost				X	X	
Nonprofit	Haven	X	X				Confidential support for anyone experiencing domestic abuse.
Business - Producer	Hettinger Household				X		
Business - Producer	High Ground Farm				X		

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Business - Producer	Highland Harmony Farm				X		
Business - Producer	Highline Meat				X		
Business	Hillside Nursery				X		
Business	Home Depot/Lowes				X		
Business	HomeStake Venture Partners				X		Financing and venture capital, supporting local business and Montana-based investors
Business	Hook 'em + Skin 'em				X		
Nonprofit	Hopa Mountain - Local Food for Local Families	X	X	X			Rural and tribal leader focus. Cooperative effort to support and connect producers, food hubs, food pantries and others to increase access to Montana grown and processed agricultural products
Nonprofit	HRDC - Fork and Spoon	X	X				Montana's first pay-what-you-can restaurant.
Nonprofit	HRDC - Gallatin Valley Food Bank	X	X	X			Primary food bank location. Helps to supply Big Sky Community Food Bank, Headwaters Area Food Bank, West Yellowstone Food Bank, Bounty of Bridgers at MSU, Cat in the Bag at Gallatin College, and pantries at both Belgrade and Bozeman Public Library. Provides food to Blueprint, schools, churches, and occasionally to other youth programs, senior centers, and programs like Meals on Wheels.
Nonprofit	HRDC - Grow-A-Row	X	X				Gallatin Valley Food Bank accepts home-grown produce from community members.
Nonprofit	HRDC - Kids Pack	X					Provides nutritionally balanced, kid-friendly foods to area students in grades K -12 every Friday for them to eat during the weekend.
Nonprofit	HRDC - Senior Groceries Program	X					Provides nutrition assistance for eligible older adults.
Nonprofit	HRDC - Summer Lunch	X					Free, healthy meals are available at sites across the Gallatin Valley.
Business - Producer	Ike Dyk's corn field				X		
Business	Intermountain Veterinary Hospital (large animal)			X	X		
Business - Producer	Irish Dexter grass-fed beef				X		
Business	Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT			X	X		Organic farmland finance company
Business	Kamp Implement Co.				X		
Business	Kenyon Noble				X		
Business - Producer	Kimm's Organic Potatoes				X		
Business - Producer	Knowhere Farms				X		
Business - Producer	Kokoro Flower Farm				X		
Nonprofit	Livingston Food Resource Center	X	X	X	X		Food access resource for the Livingston Community, key player in emergency response feeding.
Agency, Institution, Government	Livingston Hospital		X	X			Sourcing local foods.
Business - Producer	Lockhorn Orchard and Garden				X		
Business	Logan Landfill				X		
Business	Manhattan Bank			X	X		
Business	Matt's Butcher Shop + Deli			X	X		

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Business - Producer	Milkmaid Meats				X		
Business	Miller Custom Meats				X		
Nonprofit	Montana Cooperative Development Center			X			Fosters cooperative enterprises across various sectors.
Business	Montana Department of Agriculture: Growth Through Agriculture (GTA), Specialty Crop Block Grant, marketing grants, other			X	X		
Business	Montana Energy Alliance (Dillon) propane for irrigation pump.				X		
MSU	Montana Farm to School Institute		X				Collaborative program with Montana Office of Public Instruction, housed within Team Nutrition at MSU.
Nonprofit	Montana Food Bank Network	X					
Nonprofit	Montana Food Bank Network - Hunters Against Hunger Program	X					In conjunction with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, hunters who legally harvest big game during the hunting season can donate all or part of their meat.
Business	Montana Gluten Free			X	X		Processing Facility
Nonprofit	Montana Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative (MIFSI)	X	X	X	X	X	Intertribal collaboration of Indigenous young professionals and elder-mentors committed to working as relatives to build shared capacity for Indigenous food sovereignty. Seeds, resources for food preservation, community gardens and resources for growing food
Nonprofit	Montana Land Reliance				X	X	Land conservation.
Business	Montana Local Foods Distribution				X		
Nonprofit	Montana Partnership to End Childhood Hunger	X	X				Nutrition Security dashboard in development.
Business - Producer	Montana Red Devin				X		Restaurant Affiliated
Agency, Institution, Government	Montana Regional Business Center			X			Part of the newly formed Northwest & Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center (nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com).
Business - Producer	Montana Roots				X		
Business	Montana Survival Seed (out of region: Bitterroot Valley, MT)				X		
MSU	Montana Team Nutrition						Multiple resources, expertise: montana.edu/team nutrition.
Business - Producer	Montana Wagyu				X		
Nonprofit	Mountain Time Arts		X				Engaging public art projects and programs. Indigenous and environmental awareness
MSU	MSU Culinary Program			X			
MSU	MSU Extension - Gallatin County		X	X			Master gardener program and other horticulture education resources, 4-H Program, resources and education opportunity for agriculture.
MSU	MSU Extension - Montana Master Gardener Program		X				Education and service organization for gardening. (part of Gallatin County Extension)

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
MSU	MSU Extension	X	X	X	X	X	Multiple resources, expertise. Researched-based university resources for the people of Montana. Skill building/how to garden.
MSU	MSU Food Product Development Lab			X			Supports small food business via technical product research development, testing, and consulting.
MSU	MSU Meat Science Lab				X		Basic + applied research, expertise for new product development.
MSU	MSU Montana Dietetic Internship	X	X				Applied learning in clinical, community, and food service environments.
MSU	MSU Montana Manufacturing Extension Center			X			Outreach and assistance center. Reported to offer free facility audits. Relies on grant funding to provide free services.
MSU	MSU Sustainable Food & Bioenergy Systems (SFBS)		X	X	X	X	Academic program. Interns/workforce.
MSU	MSU WWAMI Culinary Medicine course	X	X				Also serves nursing and dietician students.
Agency, Institution, Government	MT Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs - National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	X					NSLP is a USDA program that provides funding for nutritious meals in schools; Funding is based on family income
Business	Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply				X		
Nonprofit	National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)		X	X	X	X	Helping people build resilient communities through local and sustainable solutions that reduce poverty, strengthen self-reliance, and protect natural resources.
Agency, Institution, Government	NCAT - Harvest of the Month	X	X	X			
Business - Producer	New Pioneer Farm				X		
Business - Producer	Nightinggreens				X		
Business - Producer	Norris Hot Springs				X		
Business - Producer	North Bridger Bison				X		
Business	Oak Gardens				X		
Business	Old Salt Meat Company				X		
Business - Producer	Old Town Farmstand				X		
Nonprofit	Open & Local Coalition		X	X	X	X	Collaboration toward stronger community food systems and conserved agricultural lands.
Business - Producer	Peyson's Produce				X		
Business	Pioneer Meats				X		
Business	Producer Partnership				X		
Nonprofit	Prospera - Food & Agriculture Program			X	X	X	Supports businesses in the diversified industry of agriculture, including food product makers and distributors.
Business - Producer	Pure Leaf Gardens				X		
Business	Quality Foods Distribution	X		X	X		Distributes local food. Has refrigerated and dry storage in four corners; 6 refrigerator trucks, operate in MT WY & ID
Business	Quality Meats				X		
Business - Producer	Rainbow Creek Farm				X		
Business	Ranchland Packing Co				X		

Type	Asset	Food access resilience	Wellness education culture	Food pathway	Production	Ecological sustainability	Notes
Business	Range Market				X		
Business - Producer	Rathvinden				X		
Business	ReGen Market			X	X		
Business	Rocky Mountain Credit Union			X	X		
Business	Rocky Mountain Supply			X	X		
Business	Root Cellar Foods	X		X	X		Source regional food, year-round
Nonprofit	S.C.O.R.E.			X			Business support
Nonprofit	Sage Gardeners	X	X				Provides raised beds and garden-based therapy for aging seniors in Gallatin County.
Nonprofit	Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)	X	X				A tool for seniors on limited incomes to access fresh local foods. Seniors redeem coupons directly with approved farmers. Farmers work directly with CFAC for authorization, then are reimbursed for the value of the coupons they collect by a local agency. (This avoids the delay of mailing coupons to the program managers for reimbursement.) Local Agency sites where farmers redeem coupons: Bozeman Senior Center, Gallatin Conservation District (Manhattan), Western Sustainability Exchange (Livingston)
Business - Producer	Serenity Sheep Farm				X		Restaurant Affiliated
Business - Producer	Shields Valley Ranchers				X		
Business	Skyline Veterinary Hospital (small animal, formerly Sorensen Small Animal Hospital)				X		
Business - Producer	Spain Bridge Farm				X		
Business - Producer	SporeAttic				X		
Business	Spur Line				X		
Business - Producer	Square Deal (Little Star Diner)				X		
Business	Steward				X		
Business	Stillwater Packing Co.				X		
Business	Story Distributing (+ Casey's Corner; acquired by Parkland Corp. 2020-21)				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	X					Helps families facing food insecurity afford nutritious groceries essential to health and well-being
Business - Producer	Synchronicity Agroforestry Center				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	X					Helps to help low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency.
Business - Producer	Terra Greens Produce				X		
Business	The Meat Up				X		
Business - Producer	Thirteen Mile Lamb & Wool				X		
Business - Producer	Three Hearts Farm		X		X		Farm stand
Business - Producer	Three Seed Farm				X		Bio-regionally adapted vegetable and flower seeds here in the Gallatin Valley
Nonprofit	Tinworks Art		X				Food-related installations and conversation series

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Business	Together Bakery		X	X			Bakery making bread with ancient grains grown in Montana
Business	Town & Country Foods	X		X	X		Local worker-owned grocery, carries local and Montana products.
MSU	Towne's Harvest Garden	X	X		X		Five-acre diversified farm supporting a student-run community supported agriculture program; Students work share opportunities; Mobile farm stand located at Legion Villa, a section 8 housing complex that serves low income, elderly members of the community.
Business	Triple Divide Seeds (out of region: Ronan, MT)				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	USDA - Farm Service Agency (FSA)				X		
Agency, Institution, Government	USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)				X		
Business	Visser Greenhouses				X		
Business	Watson Irrigation (Townsend)				X		
Business	Western Montana Growers Co-op			X	X		They are farmer owned in northwest MT. Sell locally to Town & County, Co-Op, Monforton School, Lockhorn Cider, Bozeman Hilton Garden Inn (according to website map)
Agency, Institution, Government	Western SARE (part of USDA National Institute for Food & Agriculture)						Grants to advance innovations that improve profitability, stewardship, and quality of life in American agriculture.
Nonprofit	Western Sustainability Exchange (WSE)			X	X	X	Noted: resource guide, ranch practices, etc.
Business	Whalen's Meat Packing (Belgrade)			X			
Agency, Institution, Government	Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	X					Helps to provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk
Agency, Institution, Government	Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Farm Direct Program	X					A tool allowing mothers of young children to access nutritious local produce.
Business	Yellowstone Tractor (Belgrade)				X		
Business	YES Compost				X		

