

Hi all,

I hope you've been enjoying the summer. The **perennial-filled Spenard Garden at the LSS food pantry has never looked better**, overflowing with nettles, good king henry, rhubarb, lovage, and soon to be strawberries, raspberries, currants, and more. These plants were all donations, and I feel gratitude for your gifts every time we're sharing the abundance with the hundreds of weekly visitors.

And it looks like **the secret is out about the Midtown Garden Depot**. It's been getting lots of love and attention this summer in the form of generous donations and appreciation from folks finding what they need, all for free. My estimate is there are well over 100 people visiting the Depot each month, and so many of the ones I chat with are visiting for the first time, excited to have discovered it, and hope it is still available next year. The midtown community gardeners have been loving the Depot too, putting the piles of helpful gardening stuff to use creating and improving their gardens just a few hundred feet away. The **'For Sale' sign at the Depot** has me thinking about where we'll move next. If you have any leads on vacant land, please reach out.

Noteworthy new partnerships this summer (All of these are great people and great projects. I'd be happy to loop you into any one of these if you'd like to get involved):

- Working with Aidan at Standard Waste Relief, a **new commercial organic waste hauler in Anchorage**. Aidan drops off food waste at the Depot, and in exchange helps us manage our compost piles. The partnership will change as his business changes, but for the time being it's a learning opportunity for everyone and mutually beneficial.
- We've been working with **staff and clients of Hope Community Resources**, gardening together in Spenard and Midtown. Part of Hope's services is activity based, and gardening together outside has been really enjoyable. One client/staff pair has joined the Midtown Community Garden, and I'd love to make room for more.
- **First Christian Church**, along LaTouche, recently lost lots of spruce trees, so there is an opportunity for perennial and annual food gardens, pollinator habitat, beautification, etc. We're helping them with landscape design, long-term garden planning and short-term implementation.
- Catholic Social Services' **Fresh International Garden** is designing and building an expansion this summer, and we're providing some support in the form of information- and resource-sharing.

We're putting together a list of people **who might be interested in trailer- loads of horse manure** to be delivered to their Anchorage property or project for free. The Anchorage horse council is building a matching list of horse owners with the equipment to deliver and interest in getting their manure to gardeners. We're also searching for

land and access to machine time to trial windrows, aerated static piles, and other manure composting methods.

Currant Affairs continues. The newsletter is available as an email, Google Calendar on our website, and as a pdf on ACAT's website.

Perennial Nursery - Our goal is to support folks transitioning from lawn to meadow and forest, growing food and medicine, providing habitat to wildlife like pollinators. You too? We'd love to share these plants with you and with your garden projects around town. Plant donations also accepted. We'll look after them, divide them, and find them a good home:

- [Check out the list of plants.](#) It's a first draft, so I invite suggestions and edits. Most of the plants are in 1-2 gallon pots (trees are in 5-10 gallong) and kept behind Nick's house, but we can bring them to the Spenard and Midtown Garden.

Our regular summer schedule of workparties continues:

- Sunday 10-1 pm - Midtown Garden workparty
- Sunday 2-5 pm - Spenard Garden workparty
- Tuesday 6-7 pm: Compost workparty/workshop at Midtown Depot
- Wednesday 3:30-5:30 pm - Spenard Garden workparty
- Wednesdays 6-7 pm - Midtown Depot workparty

Harvest Party to celebrate the growing season and all the effort that went into the Midtown and Spenard community gardens this year. The celebration will be at the Spenard Community Garden (1303 West 33rd) starting at 12 pm on Sunday, August 13. Lunch provided. RSVP with garden@akaction.org

Email garden@akaction.org or call Nick at 717-4392 with questions.

Wishing you all a warmer, sunnier July (fingers crossed!) and see you in the gardens.
Nick and the ACAT Team