OCTOBER 20, 2026, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

# STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Monarch Butterfly Getting Nectar from Flowers  in Community Garden

## Committee Members:

COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR
JULIANA TAYLOR, SECRETARY
JACKIE MARSHALL, MEMBER
TOM ZIMMERMAN, MEMBER

# OVERVIEW

Stone Mountain Community Garden at VFW Park (SMCG) is an all volunteer effort and has been operating continuously since March 2011, as a partnership between the City of Stone Mountain and the Dekalb County/University of Georgia Extension Service (Extension Service). **"We Grow Community."** The SMCG is vibrant and continues to grow.

So far, the SMCG has donated over 18,100 pounds of fresh produce to the Stone Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry (Food Pantry) for distribution to local families with food insufficiencies — providing healthy and nutritious food for over 4,500 families to date. Thus far this year, we have delivered over 1,090 pounds of fresh produce to the Food Pantry. Current crops include: basil, bok choy, cabbages, carrots, chives, collard greens, eggplant, garlic chives, ginger, green beans, green onions, kale, lemongrass, mint, mustard greens, oregano, okra, parsley, peppers (sweet and hot), radishes, rosemary, sage, sorrel, strawberries, sweet potatoes, thyme, tomatoes and turnip greens.

The SMCG provides 54 spaces for individuals in the community to grow their choices of vegetables, fruits and flowers throughout the year without harmful pesticides. We maintain an apiary with two of our three honeybee hives still active, a butterfly/pollinator garden, four composting systems, herb garden, children's garden, grape arbor, two vertical gardens, co-planting demonstration area and a newly operational greenhouse.

Master Gardeners continue to support the Community Garden through the Extension Service. They play an important role in the community by providing gardening and environmental education — through workshops, classes and technical assistance onsite. At least one Master Gardener is on duty every Saturday morning and there is a Community Workday on the second Saturday of each month.

# RECENT SMCG EVENTS

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|---|---|
| October 10, 2026 | Faith and Blue Workday (Postponed) |
| September 27, 2026 | Volunteers Participate in Honeybee Hive Inspections |

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

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|---|---|
| November 7, 2026 | Fall - Native Garden Brunch - 10am to 2pm (Flyer Attached) |
| November 14, 2026 | Workday and Mini Talk |

# RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Donation of Pic Nic Table and Buckets by LOWE'S (Delivered by Carl Wright)




2. Donation of Signs by Reginald Stephens, Master Gardener Intern



# IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Accessibility to Garden and Bathrooms—Problems Persist
2. Remedy Drainage Problem Along Gordon Street and Entrance to Community Garden
3. Storage Shed for Equipment

# MEDIA EVENTS

Canopy Atlanta - ***Taste Makers*** by Jack Rose, May 5, 2026 - https://canopyatlanta.org/2026/05/21/stone-mountain-community-garden/

Rough Draft Atlanta - ***Role of Gardens Helping People in Need***, April 30, 2026 - https://roughdraftatlanta.com/2026/04/30/community-gardens-donate-produce/

Atlantic Bee Company, January 19, 2026 - https://atlanticbeecompany.substack.com/p/healing-land

Food Well Alliance - ***What Growers Have to Say*** June 18, 2025 - https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=a0e6e9dd6a052a57e2be9f86e&id=9e92df56bd

Food Well Alliance ***Summer Campaign***, June 18, 2025 https://mailchi.mp/foodwellalliance/june-2025-newsletter-updates-8346492?e=7cfe561612

Third Annual Faith and Blue Event at SMCG on City Of Stone Mountain Website
https://www.stonemountaincity.org/news_detail_T3_R356.php

Faith and Blue Event at SMCG on FOX News, October 12, 2024
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/CGsdZKhqoGVzRYtb/?mibextid=K35XfP

Caston's Blog Dekalb County Extension 2024 - https://site.extension.uga.edu/dekalb/2024/07/master-gardener-site-spotlight-stone-mountain-community-garden/

Food Well Alliance April 2024 Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/reel/C5USbu7uiS0/?igsh=MWJ4d3M1cnV5MHQ1cw==

Stone Mountain Community Garden - Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/StnMtnCommunityGarden/

AIB TV 2024 Documentary on SMCG https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeVQI5Q-l34&t=1s

11 Alive TV 2024 Documentary on SMCG
https://www.11alive.com/video/news/local/gardeners-grow-for-the-hungry-in-stone-mountain/85-2bd50dc4-d5f6-42b0-8af8-14bc12bed901

FOX 5 ATL 2024 Documentary on SMCG - https://www.fox5atlanta.com/video/1435657

Food Well Alliance ***Just Picked!*** Blog - https://www.foodwellalliance.org/blog/columbus-brown-stone-mountain-community-garden

Georgia Grown 2022 Article, Page 32 -
https://editions.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=759283

Georgia Bulletin Article 2021 Re: SMCG -
https://georgiabulletin.org/news/2021/04/corpus-christi-parishioners-join-community-effort-to-garden-with-love/

Dekalb County Extension ***How to Build a Raised Bed***
https://www.facebook.com/UGAExtensionDeKalbCounty/videos/build-a-raised-bed/1117166168664185/

Georgia Bulletin Article 2016 re SMCG
https://georgiabulletin.org/news/2016/12/community-garden-grows-tons-good/

Georgia Bulletin Article 2013 re SMCG parishes-find-vitality-in-caring-for-creation