

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

**STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN
AT VFW PARK**

COMMITTEE REPORT



Members:

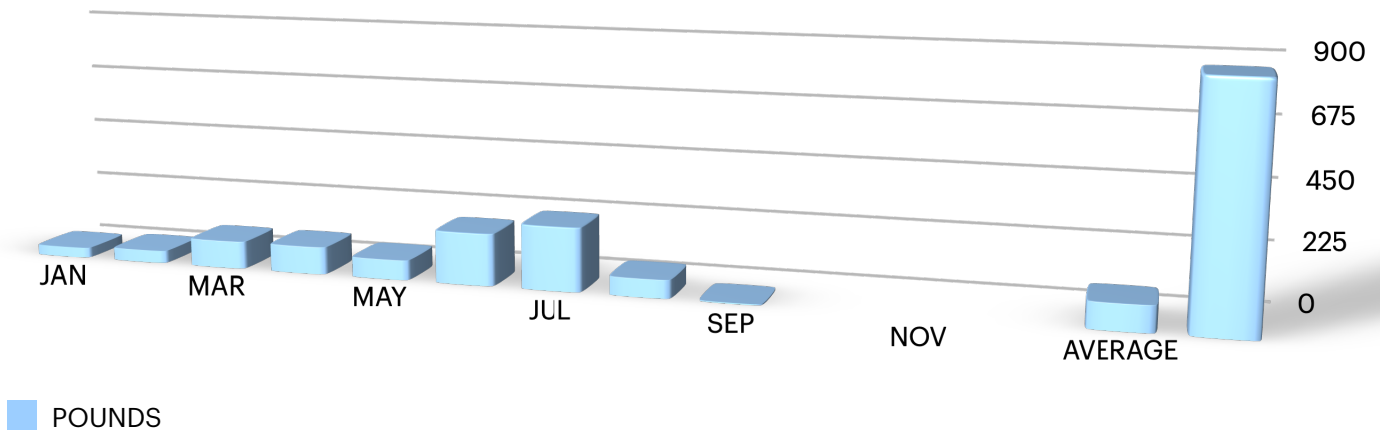
**COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR
JULIANA PIERRE, SECRETARY
LAURETTE JACKSON, MEMBER
TOM ZIMMERMAN, MEMBER**

OVERVIEW

The Stone Mountain Community Garden at VFW Park (SMCG) was established in March 2011 as a partnership between the City of Stone Mountain and the Dekalb County/ University of Georgia Extension Service (Extension Service). Since that time, the SMCG has provided over seven tons of fresh produce to the Stone Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry (Food Pantry) for distribution to local families with food insufficiencies. The SMCG is an all volunteer effort that has provided essential food for over 3,930 families to date.

Thus far in 2024, the SMCG has contributed over 860 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry, averaging 100 pounds per month (see below).

SMCG 2024 Monthly Harvests for Food Pantry



The SMCG provides over 50 spaces for individuals in the community to grow their own vegetables, fruits and flowers throughout the year. There is also, an apiary, butterfly/ pollinator garden, four composting systems, herb garden, children's garden, grape arbor and two vertical gardens. No pesticides are used at the SMCG. Ten Master Gardeners presently support this effort through the Extension Service. Volunteers (including Master Gardeners) provided 1,455 service hours in 2023.

RECENT EVENTS AT SMCG

June 8, 2024	Mini Talk by MG Columbus Brown on Food Safety in Garden
June 25, 2024	Food Well Alliance Hosts Pop Up Group of Volunteers
June 29, 2024	Plant Eat and Repeat Talk on Soil Testing - Hosted by Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Food Well Alliance
July 13, 2024	Mini Talk on Replanting Summer Crops by Sally Peek
July 27, 2024	Food Well Alliance Hosts Pop Up Group
August 10, 2024	Food Well Alliance Hosts Pop Up Group of Volunteers
August 10, 2024	Mini Talk on Native Medicinal Plants by Ms. Yolanda Hack
September 7, 2024	Mini Talk on Making Essential Oils by Ms. Deborah Zelner

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

September 19, 2024	Quarterly SMCG Committee Meeting (ZOOM)
October 12, 2024	Third Annual Faith and Blue (Local Church Groups and Law Enforcement) Workday
October 19, 2024	Plant Eat and Repeat Talk on Preparing for Fall in Gardens - Hosted by Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Food Well Alliance
October 19, 2024	Healthy Garden, Healthy You - Cooking Demonstration on Healthy Eating - Hosted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the Atlanta Food Bank's Nutrition Team
November 9, 2024	Workday and Mini Talk (Topic TBD)

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Remove Dead Peach Tree and Clear Branches and Overgrowth Along Both Fences
2. Rodent Control in and Around Storage Building and Shed
3. Removal of Weed Piles from Stalls & Replace Depleted Supply of Compost
4. Remedy Drainage/Safety Issue Near Entrance of SMCG

MEDIA EVENTS

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](https://georgiabulletin.org/news/2013/04/parishes-find-vitality-in-caring-for-creation)