

DECEMBER 17, 2024

# STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



## Members:

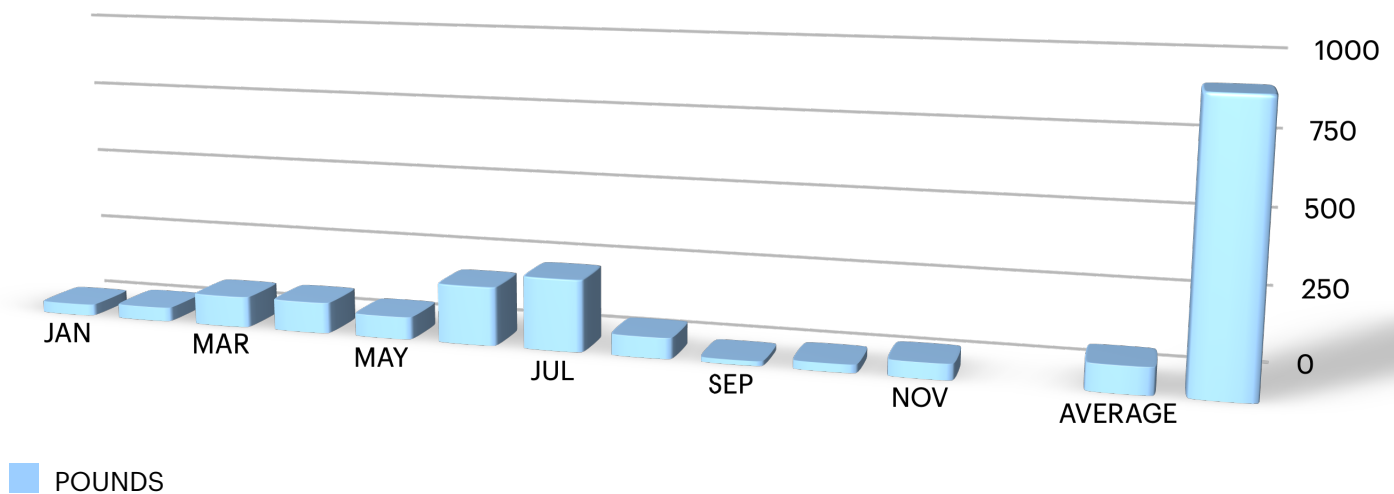
**COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR**  
**CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR**  
**JULIANA PIERRE, SECRETARY**  
**LAURETTE JACKSON, MEMBER**  
**TOM ZIMMERMAN, MEMBER**

## 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 15,800 pounds 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 3,950 families to date. Thus far in 2024, the SMCG has contributed over 968 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry, averaging 88 pounds per month (see below) — benefiting 230 families with food insufficiencies.

The SMCG provides 54 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 (excluding Master Gardeners) have provided more than 600 service hours thus far in 2024.

### SMCG 2024 Monthly Harvests for Food Pantry



## **RECENT EVENTS AT SMCG**

- November 9, 2024 Community Workday and Emory Care Team Volunteers Helped  
Mini Talk by Columbus Brown on “Guiding Principles for Gardening  
and Composting”
- November 12, 2024 Volunteer Group from Food Well Alliance Assists with Fall Plantings

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG**

- December 14, 2024 Community Workday (No Mini Talk)
- December 14, 2024 Assist Children with Activities After Holiday Parade
- January 16, 2025 Quarterly SMCG Committee Meeting (ZOOM)

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Removed Plants Susceptible to Freezing from Food Pantry Garden
2. Installed Cover Cloth to Protect the Plants in the Food Pantry Garden from Freezing and Winterized Watering System
3. Acquired Soil Amendments and Tools to Help With Fall and Winter Crops
4. Transplanted Young Plants to New Raised Beds in the Food Pantry Garden
5. Acquired New Green House

## **IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY**

1. Remove Dead Peach Tree and Clear Branches and Overgrowth Along Both Fences
2. Remedy Drainage/Safety Issue Near Entrance of SMCG
3. Load of Compost for Community Garden

# MEDIA EVENTS

**Plant Eat and Repeat Talk by Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Food Well Alliance (Summary video by Atlanta Botanical Gardens to be released soon.)**

Third Annual Faith and Blue Event at SMCG on City Of Stone Mountain Website  
[https://www.stonemountaincity.org/news\\_detail\\_T3\\_R356.php](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](#)