

AUGUST 18, 2026, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Honey Bee Talk by Columbus Brown

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 18,000 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 960 pounds of fresh produce to the Food Pantry. Current crops include: basil, bok choy, carrots, chives, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, garlic, ginger, green beans, garlic chives, green onions, lemongrass, mint, oregano, okra, parsley, peppers (sweet and hot), radishes, rosemary, sage, sorrel, strawberries, sweet potatoes, thyme, and tomatoes.

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

July 25, 2026	Collection of Soil Samples by Rooted in Solutions Volunteers
August 1, 2026	Hive Inspection of Honey Bees and Training for Volunteers
August 8, 2026	Mini Talk on “Honey Bees—Preparing for the Winter” by Columbus Brown. Over 30 individuals participated.

August 1, 2026 Food Well Alliance Volunteers Assist with Garden Cleanup

August 8, 2026 Workday (see photos below: Weeding Blueberry/Lavender Patch and Intern Reginald Stephens Clearing Area to Plant Hibiscus at Rear of Garden)



August 15, 2026 Hive Inspection of Honey Bees and Training for Volunteers

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

August 20, 2026 SMCG Committee Quarterly Meeting (ZOOM)

September 12, 2026 Monthly Workday

September 12, 2026 Mini Talk by Victoria Hall on Herbal Teas

October 10, 2026 Faith and Blue Workday

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Sink Installed in Greenhouse (Food Well Alliance Grant)

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Water Faucets for Hoses and Tanks Repaired
2. Accessibility to Garden and Bathrooms—Problems Persist
3. Remedy Drainage Problem Along Gordon Street and Entrance to Community Garden
4. Relocate Storage Shed from Georgia Military College Site to Community Garden

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](#)