

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Committee Members:

COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR
JULIANA TAYLOR, SECRETARY
JACKIE MARSHALL, 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.”** So far, the SMCG has provided 16,700 pounds of fresh produce to the Stone Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry (Food Pantry) for distribution to local families with food insufficiencies — providing essential food for over 4,175 families to date. This year, the SMCG has contributed over 850 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry — helping 212 families.

The SMCG provides 54 spaces for individuals in the community to grow their own vegetables, fruits and flowers throughout the year. We maintain an apiary with three honey bee hives, a butterfly/pollinator garden, four composting systems, herb garden, children’s garden, grape arbor, two vertical gardens and a newly added greenhouse. Pesticides are not used at the SMCG.

Ten Master Gardeners support the Community Garden through the Extension Service. The Master Gardeners 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, the second Saturday of each month.

We are continuing to attract new gardeners and volunteers from the community.

RECENT SMCG EVENTS

- September 7, 2025 Hosted Bee Talk followed by Hive Inspections by Beekeeper
Moreen Rebeira (see cover)
- September 13, 2025 Mini Talk by Jackie Marshall on “Key Hole Gardening”
- September 13, 2025 Monthly Workday
- September 16, 2025 Hosted Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

September 25, 2025 Community Garden Committee Meeting (ZOOM) at 6:30pm

October 4, 2025 Host Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

October 11, 2025 Fourth Annual "Faith and Blue" Workday

October 21, 2025 Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Assembled New Bench Donated by Stone Mountain Women's Cub
2. Removal of Mulch, Wood Chips and Weed Piles from Stalls by Public Works
3. Pruning and Cleanup of Limbs and Debris Along Left Fence Line
4. Opportunities for Volunteers to Experience Bee Hive Inspections
5. Repairs to Leaking Waterline and Hook Up for Greenhouse by Public Works

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Handicap Accessibility to Garden and Bathrooms—Problems Persist
2. Resume Pruning and Cleanup of Limbs and Debris Along Post Office Fence Lines
3. Remedy Drainage Problem Along Gordon Street and Entrance to Community Garden
4. New Supply of Compost and Wood Chips in Stalls for Use Onsite
5. Additional Compost Needed for Herb Garden to Reduce Flooding
6. Additional Funding for Interior of New Greenhouse

MEDIA EVENTS

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](#)