

**NOVEMBER 19, 2024**

# **STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK**

# **COMMITTEE REPORT**



## **Members:**

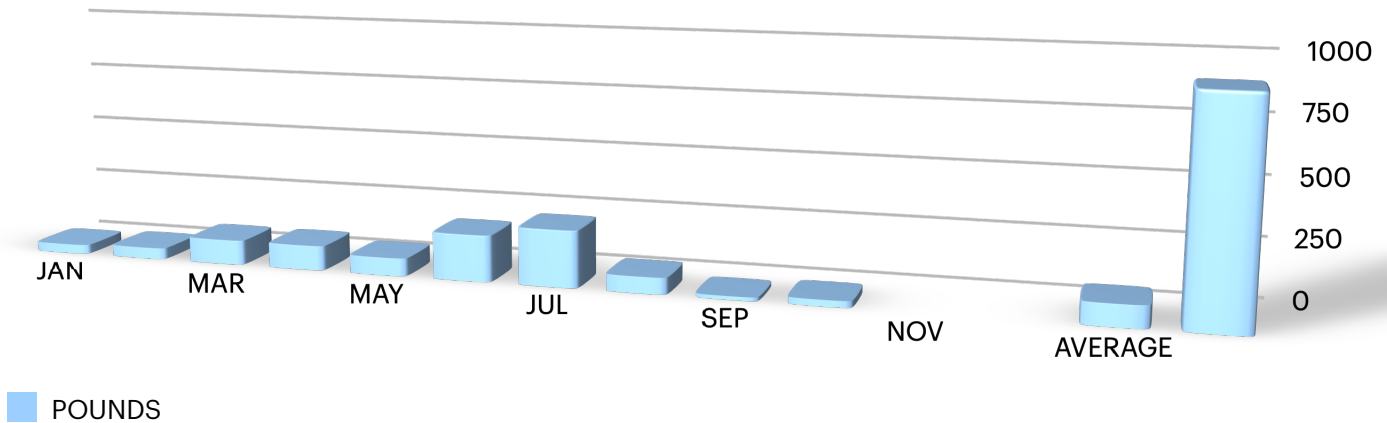
**COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR  
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR  
JULIANA PIERRE, SECRETARY  
LAURETTE JACKSON, MEMBER  
TOM ZIMMERMAN, MEMBER**

# 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 15,760 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 3,940 families to date.

Thus far in 2024, the SMCG has contributed over 916 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry, averaging 91.6 pounds per month (see below) — benefiting 230 families with food insufficiencies.

**SMCG 2024 Monthly Harvests for Food Pantry**



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 520 service hours thus far in 2024.

## RECENT EVENTS AT SMCG

October 19, 2024 Plant Eat and Repeat Talk on Preparing for Fall in Gardens - Hosted by Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Food Well Alliance. Additionally Healthy Garden, Healthy You - Talk and Cooking Demonstration on Healthy Eating - Hosted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Atlanta Botanical Gardens prepared a documentary of this event. The event was attended by 30 participants.



1. Brandon Brones Speaks on Winter Cover Crops, 2. Chef Kristen Elliot Prepares Healthy Meal, 3. Speakers and Support Team for Plant Eat Repeat Workshop, and 4. Kristen Elliot Serves Healthy Food

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

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG**

December 14, 2024 Community Workday and Mini Talk (Topic TBD)

December 19, 2024 Quarterly SMCG Committee Meeting (ZOOM)

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. City Removed Excess Materials from Weed Piles, Cleared out Stalls and Hauled Materials Away From Site (Photo on Front Cover by Columbus Brown)
2. Locks replaced on storage building and bathrooms
3. Water Restored to Bathrooms and the SMCG
4. Partnered with Dunwoody Community Garden—Exchanging Plants for Pots
5. Food Well Alliance Grant Report for 2024 Completed
6. Atlanta Botanical Garden Donated Plants for Workday

## **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

# 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](#)