

**JULY 21, 2026, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

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



Plant, Eat and Repeat Talk by Brandon Brones

## **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 17,800 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 4,450 families to date. Thus far this year, we have delivered over 760 pounds of fresh produce to the Food Pantry. Current crops include: basil, beets, blackberries, blueberries, bok choy, carrots, chives, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, garlic, green beans, green onions, lemongrass, okra, parsley, peppers (sweet and hot), 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

|               |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 27, 2026 | Plant Eat and Repeat Workshop (see cover page) on “Collecting Seeds” at SMCG by Food Well Alliance and Atlanta Botanical Gardens was attended by 43 individuals |
| July 11, 2026 | Workday                                                                                                                                                         |

July 11, 2026

Mini Talk on “Bug Control: Scouting for Pests” by Extension Agent Caston Noorullah. The talk was attended by 12 individuals.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG**

August 8, 2026

Workday

August 8, 2026

Mini Talk at 10:30am on “Honey Bees—Preparing for the Winter” by Columbus Brown

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Donation of Used Bee Equipment by Carol Kozlovic (Widow of a Beekeeper)—Hive Boxes, Frames, Nuc Boxes and Honey Extractor)

## **IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY**

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

# 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](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=DeVQl5Q-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](#)