

JANUARY 21, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Committee Members:

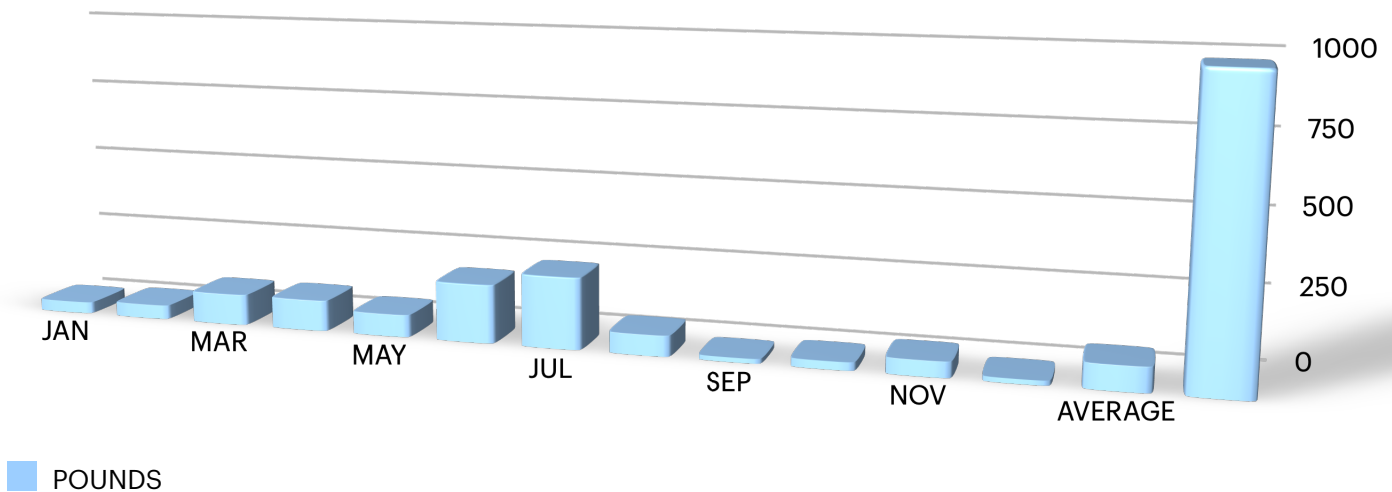
COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR
JULIANA PIERRE, SECRETARY
LAURETTE JACKSON, MEMBER
TOM ZIMMERMAN, MEMBER

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 15,830 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 3,958 families to date. In 2024, the SMCG contributed 984 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry, averaging 82 pounds per month (see below) – benefiting 291 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 support this effort through the Extension Service. Volunteers (excluding Master

SMCG 2024 Monthly Harvests for Food Pantry



Gardeners) donated over 600 hours of their time in 2024. Volunteer time for Master Gardeners will be included in the 2024 Annual Report.

RECENT SMCG EVENTS

- December 16, 2024 Members of EMBARQ Community Garden and County Extension Agent Caston Visited Site to See Vermicomposting System Operation
- January 9, 2024 Presentation at Women’s Club — “SMCG A Place to Learn, Grow and Share Your Talents”

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

- January 21, 2025 Assembly and Installation of Greenhouse by EcoParadigm
- January 25, 2025 Food Well Alliance Pop Up Volunteer Workday
- February 8, 2025 Workday and Mini Talk (TBD)

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Received Grant from Food Well Alliance for assistance with assembling and installing new Green House
2. Received Grant from Food Well Alliance and Super Sod for two Containers of Veggie Mix Soil for the Food Pantry Garden

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. Replenish Supply of Compost for Community Gardeners
4. Remove Weed Pile from Stall and Haul Away

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. Delayed due to technical issues)

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](#)