

APRIL 21, 2026, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Dekalb County Master Gardeners Workday

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.”** So far, the SMCG has donated over 17,000 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 4,260 families to date. Thus far this year, we have delivered 270 pounds of fresh produce to the Food Pantry. Current crops include: asparagus, basil, beans, beets, black berries, blueberries, bok choy, broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, eggplant, garlic, green beans, green onions, kale, leeks, lettuces, okra, parsley, peppers (sweet and jalapeño), potatoes, rosemary, sage, strawberries, sweet potatoes, thyme, tomatoes and Swiss chard.

The SMCG provides 54 spaces for individuals in the community to grow their choices of vegetables, fruits and flowers throughout the year. We maintain an apiary with three active honey bee hives, 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. Pesticides are not used at the SMCG.

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

March 24, 2026 All Dekalb County Master Gardeners Workday at SMCG

April 11, 2026 Workday and Mini Talk - “Advanced Container Gardening” by MG Shakera Lawrence

April 14, 2026 Food Well Alliance Workday for Corporate Volunteers from Unüm

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

April 24, 2026	Special Workday for Spelman College Students
May 9, 2026	Workday and Mini Talk (TBD)
June 27, 2026	Plant Eat and Repeat Workshop at SMCG by Food Well Alliance and Atlanta Botanical Gardens

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Public Works Removed Two Benches (Safety Hazard)
2. Public Works Replenished Compost
3. Public Works Had Trees and Branches Trimmed Along Fence Line
4. All Dekalb County/UGA Master Gardeners Workday (See Cover)
5. Food Well Alliance Donated Plants and Snacks for Workday on April 14 Event

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. Resolve Electrical Problems in Storage Building and Bathrooms
5. Replace Third Picnic Bench Under Kiosk
6. Replenish Depleted Compost in Stall and Remove Weed Pile from Stall
7. Replace/Repair Water Faucets for Hoses and Tanks

MEDIA EVENTS

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](#)