

MAY 19, 2026, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Spelman College Philosophy Club Volunteers

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 17,370 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 4,340 families to date. Thus far this year, we have delivered 330 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, lemongrass, lettuces, okra, parsley, peppers (sweet and jalapeño), potatoes, radishes, rosemary, sage, strawberries, squash, 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

- April 23, 2026 Interview by Logan Ritchie of Rough Draft Atlanta for Article on Role of Gardens Helping People in Need (See Media Events)
- April 24, 2026 Special Workday for Spelman College Students (See Front Page)
- May 9, 2026 Presentation of Master Gardener Certificate to Dr. Gertrude Allen During Workday
- May 9, 2026 Hive Inspection with Volunteer Participation

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

May 30, 2026	Volunteers from Rooted in Solutions to Assist in Repairing Raised Beds
June 6, 2026	Potluck Brunch Commemorating 15th Anniversary of SMCG at VFW Park
June 13, 2026	Workday and Mini Talk by Master Gardener Karen Angel from Tucker Butterfly Garden on "Alternative Method for Mosquito Control"
June 13, 2026	Host Food Well Alliance Volunteer Group
June 27, 2026	Plant Eat and Repeat Workshop on "Pollinators" at SMCG by Food Well Alliance and Atlanta Botanical Gardens

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Public Works Replenished Depleted Compost in Stall and Remove Weed Pile from Stall
2. Food Well Alliance Donated Plants and Snacks for Workday on April 14
3. Dunwoody Community Garden Donated Vegetable Plants to SMCG
4. Kent Leslie Donated Flowers (Begonias) to SMCG
5. Plants Grown in New Greenhouse Used in Food Pantry Garden
6. Electrical Problems in Storage Building Resolved

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 Third Picnic Bench Under Kiosk
5. Replace/Repair Water Faucets for Hoses and Tanks

MEDIA EVENTS

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

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](https://www.georgiabulletin.org/news/2013/04/parishes-find-vitality-in-caring-for-creation/)