

JULY 15, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

## STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



### Committee Members:

COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR  
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR  
JULIANA TAYLOR, SECRETARY  
JACKIE MARSHALL, 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 16,430 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 4,112 families to date. Thus far in 2025, the SMCG has contributed over 600 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry — benefiting 150 families experiencing 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 active apiary with three honey bee hives, a butterfly/pollinator garden, four composting systems, herb garden, children’s garden, grape arbor, two vertical gardens and a newly added greenhouse. Pesticides are not used at the SMCG.

Ten Master Gardeners support the Community Garden through the Extension Service. The Master Gardeners 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.

# RECENT SMCG EVENTS

June 20, 2025	Meeting With City Manager, Public Works Director and Storm Water and Drainage Director Regarding Drainage Issues Affecting Community Garden and Handicap Accessibility
June 21, 2025	Food Well Alliance Organizes Volunteers to Assist at Community Garden (See Photo on Front Cover Page)
June 30, 2025	Quarterly Community Garden Committee Meeting (ZOOM) - Minutes Posted on City Website
July 12, 2025	Monthly Workday and Mini Talk by MG Elizabeth Wallace on Planting Pollinators

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

August 9, 2025	Monthly Workday
August 9, 2025	Mini Talk (TBD)
TBD	All Dekalb Master Gardeners Workday

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Received Donated Native Plants from Food Well Alliance for Planting in Butterfly Garden
2. Received Donation of Melon Plants from Atlanta Botanical Gardens for Food Pantry and Children's Gardens
3. Replacement of Four Raised Beds in Community Garden and Food Pantry Garden (Built by Volunteer/Committee Member Tom Zimmerman)
4. Donation of Bench by the Women's Club of Stone Mountain
5. Participated in Summer Campaign for Food Well Alliance (see Media Events)
6. Public Works Painted Bathroom Doors and Floors

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Handicap Accessibility to Garden and Bathrooms—Problems Persist
2. Assistance With Acquiring Storage Shed and Items for Inside of Greenhouse
3. Resume Pruning and Cleanup of Limbs and Debris Along Fence Lines
4. Remedy Drainage Problem Along Gordon Street and Entrance to Community Garden

## MEDIA EVENTS

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=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](#)