

NOVEMBER 21, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Revitalized Herb Garden

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 16,900 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 5,420 families to date. This year, the SMCG has contributed over 1,060 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry — helping 265 families.

The SMCG provides 54 spaces for individuals in the community to grow their own 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 and a newly added greenhouse. Pesticides are not used at the SMCG.

Master Gardeners 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, the second Saturday of each month.

We continue to attract new gardeners and volunteers from the community.

RECENT SMCG EVENTS

November 7, 2025 Honey Bee Hive Inspections

November 8, 2025 Workday and Rooted in Solutions Organized Volunteers

November 8, 2025 Mini Talk by MG Columbus Brown on Preparing Gardens for Winter

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

November 20, 2025 Host Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

November 22, 2025 Host Group of Volunteers Organized by Rooted in Solutions

December 13, 2025 Workday and Mini Talk

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Two Solar-Powered Fans Installed in Greenhouse by EcoParadigm (Food Well Alliance Contractor)
2. Shelving for Greenhouse Installed
3. Replaced Seven Raised Beds in Food Pantry Garden and Community Garden
4. Winterized Community Garden Watering Systems
5. Planted Fall and Winter Crops in Food Pantry Garden (Collards, Mustards, Turnips, Arugula, Thai Lettuce, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Radishes, Garlic, Chives, Sorrel, Carrots, Kale, Cabbages, Beets and Swiss Chard)

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Handicap Accessibility to Garden and Bathrooms—Problems Persist
2. Resume Pruning and Cleanup of Limbs and Debris Along Post Office Fence Lines
3. Remedy Drainage Problem Along Gordon Street and Entrance to Community Garden
4. Additional Funding for Interior of New Greenhouse and Community Garden
5. Relocate Storage Shed from Georgia Military College Site to Community Garden
6. Resolve Electrical Problems in Storage Building and Bathrooms
7. Replace Third Picnic Bench Under Kiosk
8. Replenish Wood Chips and Compost in Stalls

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

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](#)