

OCTOBER 21, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



FAITH AND BLUE WORKDAY AT SMCG

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 provided 16,744 pounds of fresh produce to the Stone Mountain Ecumenical Food Pantry (Food Pantry) for distribution to local families with food insufficiencies — providing essential food for 4,186 families to date. This year, the SMCG has contributed over 910 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry — helping 230 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 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

September 25, 2025 Community Garden Committee Meeting -

October 4, 2025 Hosted Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

October 11, 2025 Hosted Fourth Annual “Faith and Blue” Workday - Replaced Raised Beds in Community and Food Pantry Gardens (See Cover Photo), Rejuvenated Blueberry Patch and Herb Garden, Planted Fall and Winter Vegetables, and Replanted Vertical Gardens. We want to thank Pat Sabatelle and Chief Westerfield for organizing this event. We truly appreciate the City Manager and the Public Works Staff for helping prepare for this event.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

October 21, 2025 Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

November 8, 2025 Workday and Host Rooted in Solutions Organized Volunteers

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

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Replacement of Compost and Wood Chips in Stalls by Public Works
2. Provided Opportunities for Volunteers to Experience Bee Hive Inspections
3. Repairs to Leaking Waterline and Hook Up for Greenhouse by Public Works
4. Replaced Seven Raised Beds in Food Pantry Garden and Community Garden
5. Planted Fall and Winter Crops in Food Pantry Garden (Collards, Mustards, Turnips, Bok Choy, Broccoli, Radishes, Garlic, Carrots, Kale, Lettuces, 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. Move 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

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](#)