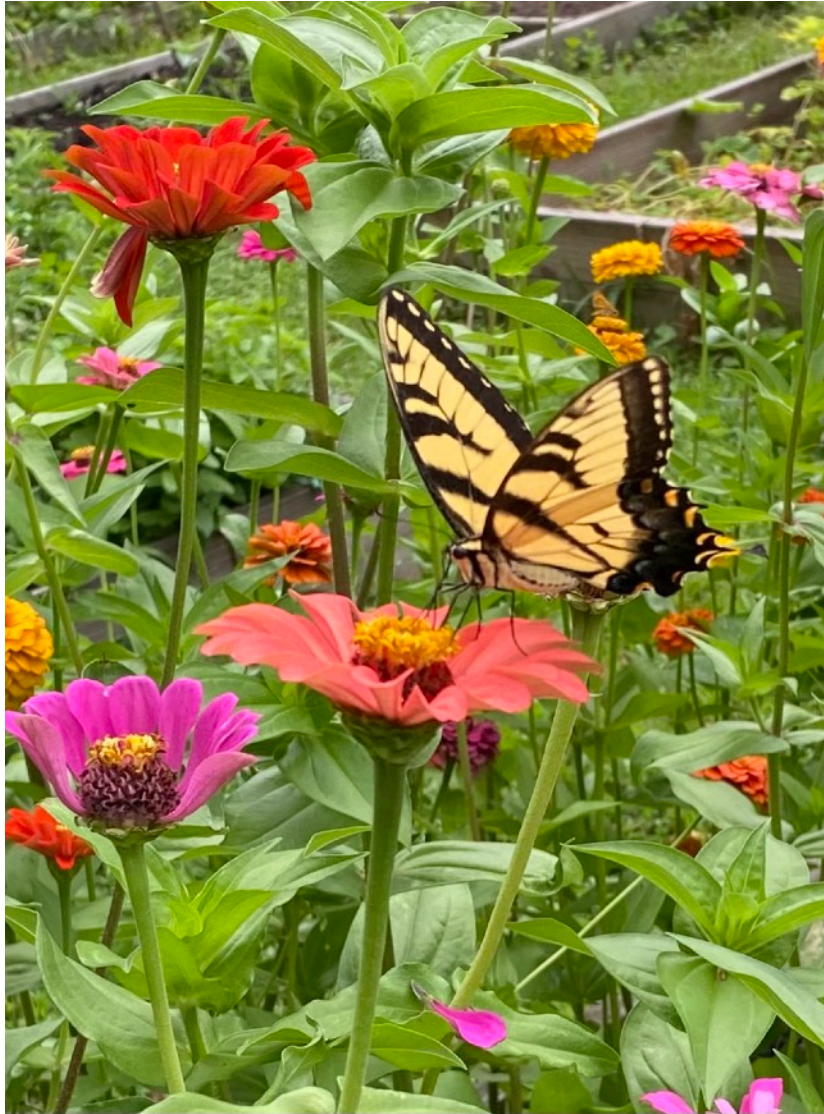


AUGUST 19, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

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) 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). So far, the SMCG has provided over 16,600 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 over 4,150 families to date. This year, the SMCG has contributed over 790 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry — helping 200 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. 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.

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 and there is a Community Workday, the second Saturday of each month.

RECENT SMCG EVENTS

July 12, 2025 Monthly Workday and Mini Talk by MG Beth Wallace on
“Combining Vegetables/Herbs into Your Home Flower Garden”



August 9, 2025 Mini Talk by Eric Jiang and Ryan Yao of Rooted in Solutions/The Westminster Schools: “Soil Sampling, Analysis and Importance of Main Soil Macronutrients: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium.”



UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

September 13, 2025 Workday and Mini Talk by Jackie Marshall on “Key Hole Gardens”
September 16, 2025 Host Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group
September 19, 2025 Community Garden Committee Meeting (ZOOM) at 6:30pm
October 4, 2025 Host Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group
October 11, 2025 Fourth Annual “Faith and Blue” Workday
October 21, 2025 Food Well Alliance Volunteer Pop Up Group

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Partnership With Rooted in Solutions for Free Soil Sampling Services
2. Best Year for Butterflies Throughout Site (See Front Cover)

3. Provided Opportunities for Volunteers to Experience Bee Hive Inspections



4. MG Heather James Weeded and Tidied Up Planters at Entrance to VFW Park

IMMEDIATE NEEDS FROM CITY

1. Handicap Accessibility to Garden and Bathrooms—Problems Persist
2. Resume Pruning and Cleanup of Limbs and Debris Along Fence Lines
3. Remedy Drainage Problem Along Gordon Street and Entrance to Community Garden
4. Removal of Mulch, Wood Chips and Weed Piles from Stalls
5. New Supply of Compost and Wood Chips in Stalls for Use Onsite
6. Additional Compost Needed for Herb Garden to Reduce Flooding

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](#)