

JUNE 17, 2025, COMMITTEE REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK



Committee Members:

**COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR
CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR
JULIANA PIERRE, 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 16,260 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 4,065 families to date. Thus far in 2025, the SMCG has contributed over 430 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry — benefiting 108 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

May 24, 2025	Inspection of Apiary and Three Hives of Honey Bees
June 14, 2025	Monthly Workday
June 14, 2024	Talk on "Starting Your Pollinator Garden" by Bill Crumpler from Rooted Faith Farm (Sponsored by Food Well Alliance)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG

June 19, 2025	Quarterly Community Garden Committee Meeting (Zoom) - To Be Rescheduled Due to Federal Holiday
July 12, 2025	Workday and Mini Talk by MG Elizabeth Wallace (Topic TBD)
TBD	All Dekalb Master Gardeners Workday

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. All Plots in Community Garden Occupied
2. Established Container Garden Area for Experimental Companion Planting (See Cover Photo of Co-Site Leader Juliana Pierre Taylor)
3. Hive Inspections and Mentoring by Beekeeper Claressa Lucas
4. Received Plant Donations from Tucker Butterfly Garden to Enhance Entryway
5. Received Plants from Atlanta Botanical Gardens to Enhance Site and Food Pantry Garden

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

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](#)