

OCTOBER 9, 2024

# STONE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY GARDEN AT VFW PARK

# COMMITTEE REPORT



## Members:

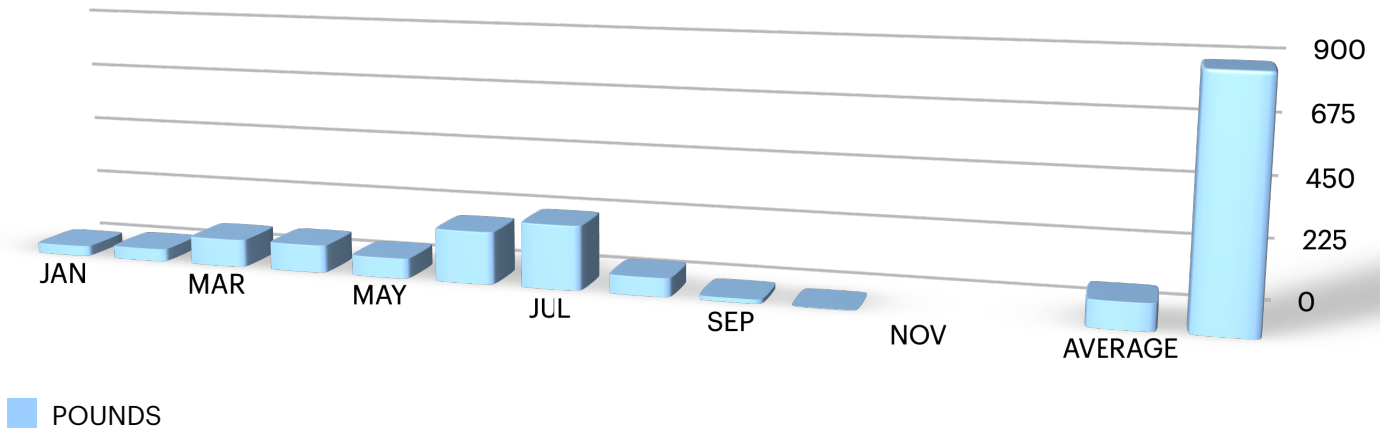
**COLUMBUS BROWN, CHAIR**  
**CHAKIRA JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR**  
**JULIANA PIERRE, SECRETARY**  
**LAURETTE JACKSON, MEMBER**  
**TOM ZIMMERMAN, MEMBER**

# 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 seven tons 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 over 3,934 families to date.

Thus far in 2024, the SMCG has contributed over 890 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs to the Food Pantry, averaging 98 pounds per month (see below).

### SMCG 2024 Monthly Harvests for Food Pantry



The SMCG provides over 50 spaces for individuals in the community to grow their own vegetables, fruits and flowers throughout the year. There is also, an apiary, butterfly/ pollinator garden, four composting systems, herb garden, children’s garden, grape arbor and two vertical gardens. No pesticides are used at the SMCG. Ten Master Gardeners presently support this effort through the Extension Service. Volunteers (excluding Master Gardeners) have provided more than 400 service hours thus far in 2024.

## **RECENT EVENTS AT SMCG**

September 7, 2024 Mini Talk on Essential Oils by Ms. Debra Zelner (Photo on Cover)

September 19, 2024 Quarterly SMCG Committee Meeting (ZOOM)— Committee Officers Reelected for two more years

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT SMCG**

October 12, 2024 Third Annual Faith and Blue (Local Church Groups and Law Enforcement) Workday

October 19, 2024 Plant Eat and Repeat Talk on Preparing for Fall in Gardens - Hosted by Atlanta Botanical Gardens and Food Well Alliance. Additionally Healthy Garden, Healthy You - Talk and Cooking Demonstration on Healthy Eating - Hosted by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. Atlanta Botanical Gardens will prepare a documentary of this event.

November 9, 2024 Workday and Mini Talk (Topic TBD)

December 19, 2024 Quarterly SMCG Committee Meeting (ZOOM)

## **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. Partnered with Atlanta Botanical Gardens to Install Drip Irrigation System for Vertical Gardens
2. Acquired Materials for Repair and Replacement of Raised Beds

# MEDIA EVENTS

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](https://www.georgiabulletin.org/news/2013/04/parishes-find-vitality-in-caring-for-creation)