

# Annual Summary 2023



## What a Year!

Hello to you all - I hope the new year is off to a good start for you and your loved ones!

I won't sugarcoat it - 2023 was a tough year for a lot of people, for a lot of reasons.

That being said, it did have its bright spots! You all, our supporters, are certainly at the top of WKPG's list of "things that were pretty great in 2023", right along with "the County officially allocated \$1.5 million to support the purchase of the WK Preserve" and "we had our most successful fundraising campaign to date, thanks to the encouragement and generosity of Sally McConnell and the folks who participated during her record-breaking matching challenge"!

We welcomed new supporters, new volunteers, and new partnerships in 2023, while maintaining friendships and strengthening ties in our community. Check out the details below my note for more data about how 2023 went for WKPG.

Our most recent collaboration is still underway! The fine folks at [Open Sky Studio and Gallery](#) hosted an open house yesterday, to share their support for our mission and to highlight the importance of shopping local. Artists and gallery owners, **Percy Kleinops** and **Suzanne Elizabeth Murphy**, have donated a beautiful piece for our online auction, as well as committed to donating 25% of all proceeds from sales where WKPG is mentioned, between the holidays and January 31. Be sure to [check out the online auction](#) and stop by to shop before January 31 - don't forget to tell them WKPG sent you!

We'll be holding a **town hall in the afternoon on February 24**, after our cleanup. We're still working on securing a location, but please mark your calendars! We'll share updates on how things are going, hold a Q&A session, and offer training for new and existing volunteers. If you've ever wanted to dip your toe into the waters of volunteering with WKPG, this is a great opportunity to meet the team! More details will be shared in the next newsletter.

The information gathered below is a snapshot of where we were as of December 31, 2023. In my opinion, the most important number out of the bunch is **\$723,000** - that is how much we still have left to raise to secure WK Preserve from development! I am certain that this group will be able to raise the funds needed for this property (and many others). With you all in our corner, I wouldn't bet against us!

Be sure to check out [our events page](#), and stay tuned for the next newsletter with more details about our activities!

Take very good care of yourselves and each other! As always, please reply to this email with any questions or for clarification on any point.

All my best,  
Rebecca

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# 2023 Highlights



## Sally McConnell's Matching Challenge

This was an amazing challenge from our long-time supporter, retired teacher Sally McConnell - to meet or exceed her donation of \$35,000 and you all crushed it! In addition to Sally's \$35,000, our donors provided an **additional \$36,787.34** of matching donations!



SO MANY  
RIBBONS!



## Our Volunteers are Behind Every Success!

We'd be sunk without our volunteers! There were 2205 volunteer hours reported in 2023, which is a significant underestimation of the time it takes to ensure the success of our mission. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to our cause!

## Overall Progress

We're 76% of the way there! With a total of **\$95,486** donated in 2023, combined with the \$1.5M committed by Pinellas County, we only have 24% left to raise! Help us get the rest of the way there [with a donation today!](#)

## Largest Single Donation

# \$35,000

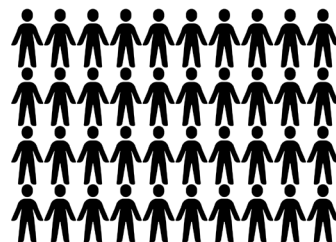
Thank you,  
Sally!

## Entire Panels of Ribbons Added to the Fence!

We are so amazed and grateful that you all have made our Green DeFence campaign a success! Thank you to our Green DeFence champions, Cheryl and Larry Putnam, for their leadership on this program!

We started the year needing more than 115,000 ribbons - we're down to 36,000 needed!

44 volunteers



2205+ volunteer hours

# Share the WKPG Story

## Our Origin Story: #SAVEtheWKP

Take a moment to watch [this wonderful documentary](#) about the creation of the WKPG, and our efforts to save the West Klosterman Preserve! This excellent overview was produced by aspiring filmmaker, **Caden Colver**, at the beginning of 2022. We remain as dedicated as ever to the preservation of natural lands in Florida!

Share the link with your friends and family, neighbors, and local officials!

## Learn More on the WKPG Website and Social Accounts

Visiting [our website](#) and following us on social media are some of the best ways to stay up-to-date on the progress we've made, next steps, and our upcoming events! We have an Instagram account ([@savethewkp](#)), a [Facebook page](#), a [Facebook group](#), and we're on [LinkedIn](#)! If you have questions, you can always reply to this email or submit your inquiry through our "[Contact Us](#)" form on the website!



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**Thank you for your donation!**

**Every dollar counts**