

West Klosterman Preserve Virtual Tour



**WK PRESERVATION
GROUP**

By Sanne Kure-Jensen

June 1, 2024

Photos by Sanne Kure-Jensen unless otherwise noted

Background

Unique Property

- Coastal Ridge
- Rare Sand Scrub Habitat
- Imperiled Ecosystems
- Endangered Species
- Threatened Species
- Nearly 14 acres
- Abuts 76-acre Mariner's Point Management Area.



Background

To Stop Development

- Need \$3,000,000
- By Sept 15, 2024
- \$2,130,000 Raised So Far



Background

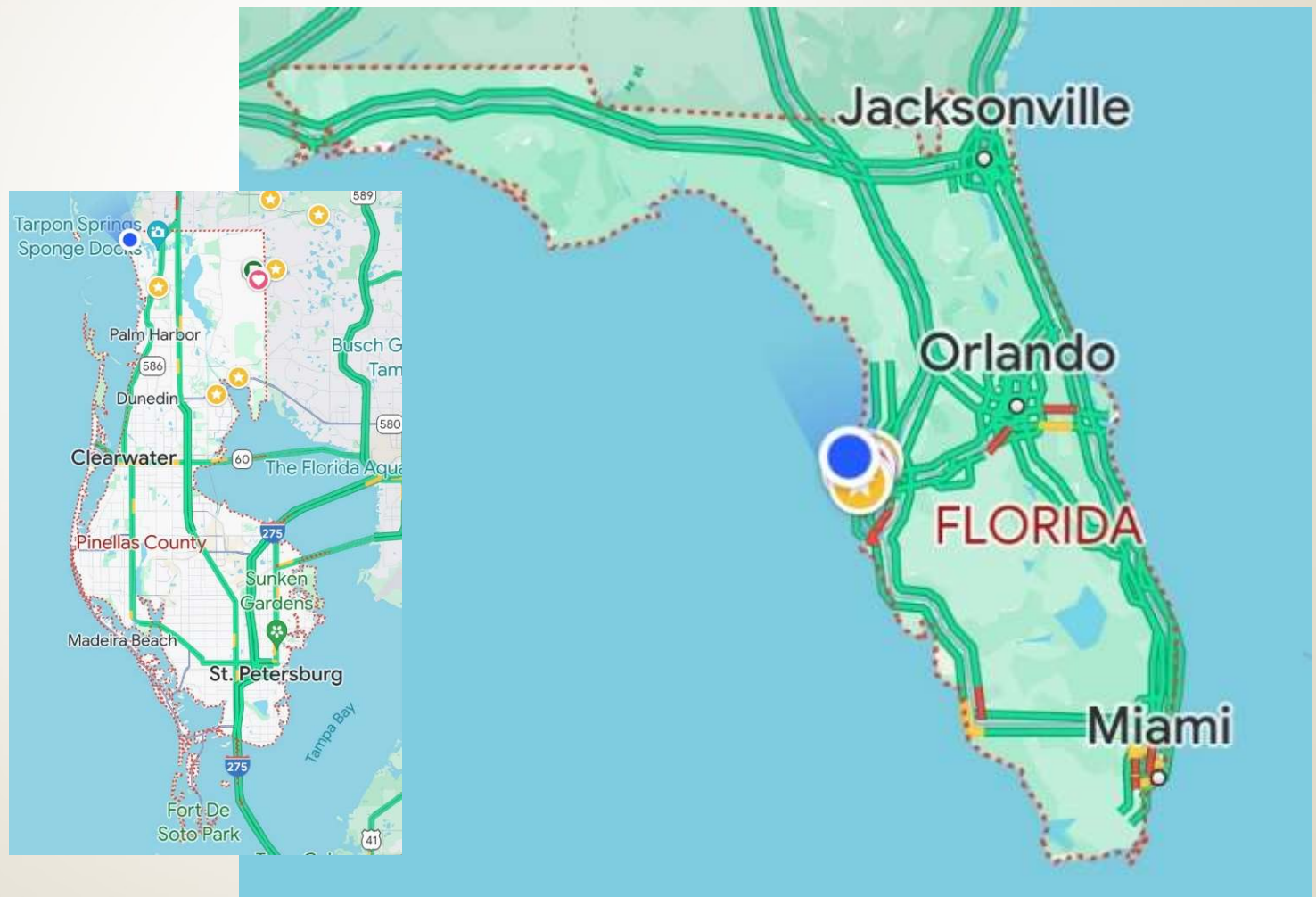
Fundraising To Purchase Property

- Funds Will Go to Pinellas School Department
- Enhance Current and Future Schools
- Turn Over Management to Pinellas County



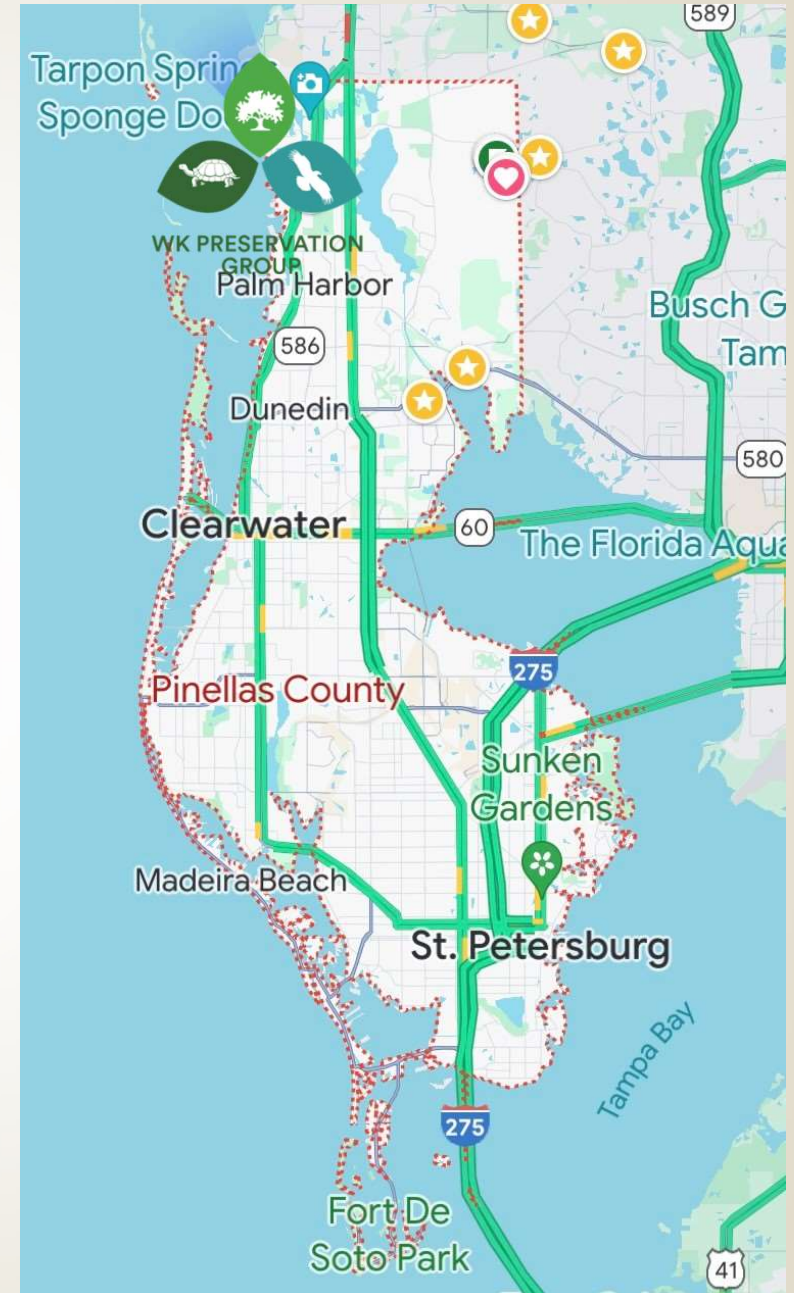
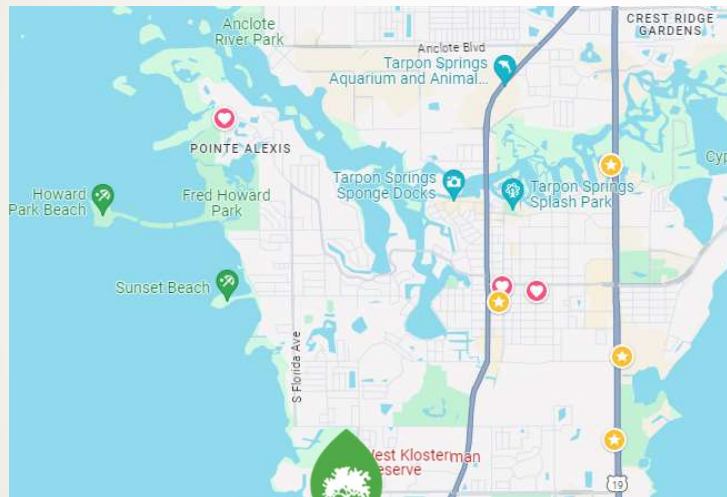
Location

West Klosterman Preserve in Pinellas County



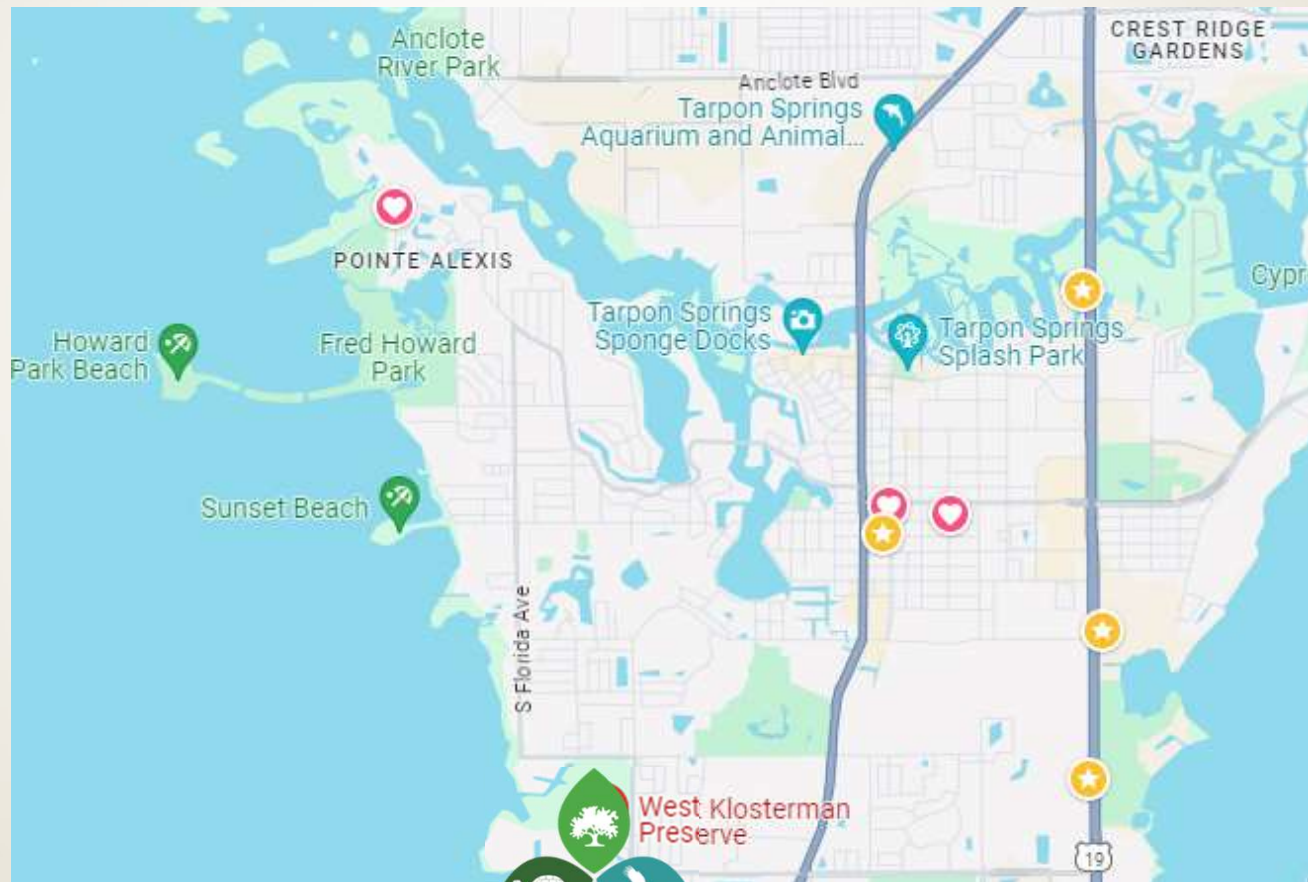
Location

West Klosterman Preserve in SW Tarpon Springs



Location

West Klosterman Preserve in SW Tarpon Springs



Sandhill & Scrub Habitat

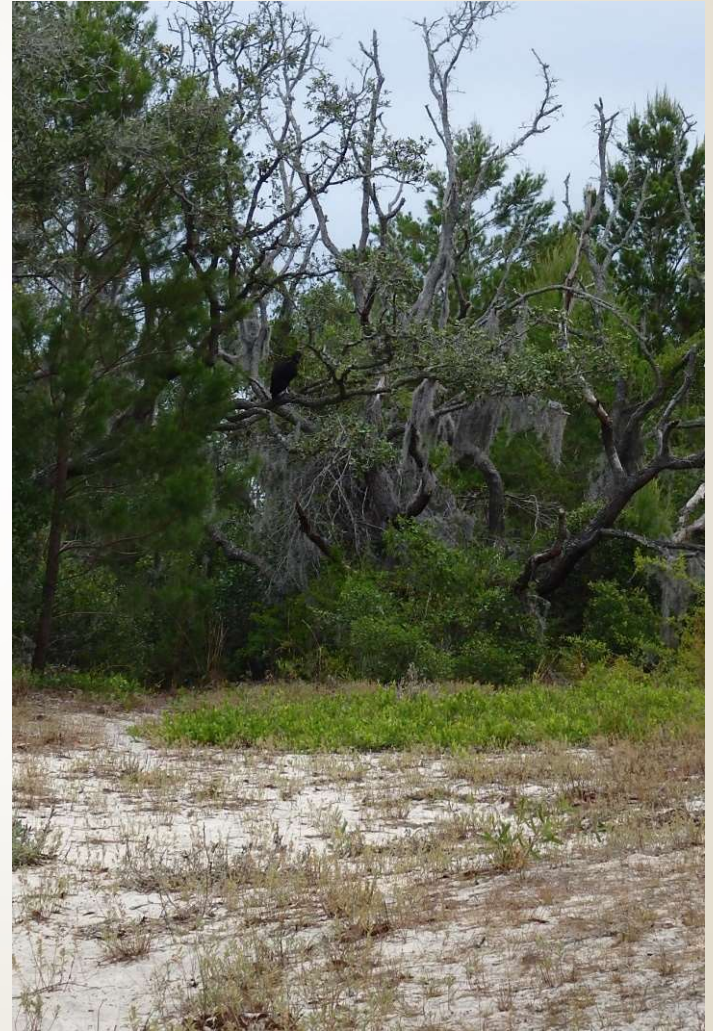
“Globally Imperiled”

Florida Natural Areas Inventory

- Rare in Pinellas County
- ONLY 3 Sites Remain



WK PRESERVATION
GROUP



Guided Tours

Interpretive Guides

- Board
- Volunteers



1. Gopher Tortoises

Inactive Burrow



Gopher Tortoises

Keystone Species

- 350+ Species Use Burrows
- Do NOT Step Nearby
- Risk Tunnel Collapse
- Eggs Laid in Apron
- Tracks Show Users



Gopher Tortoises

Threatened Species



Gopher Tortoises

Active Burrow



Gopher Tortoises

15 - 16 Burrows Near Trails



Gopher Tortoises

Healthy Population at West Klosterman Preserve



Zebra Longwing Butterfly

Florida State Butterfly

- Regular Visitor
- Lantanas
- Passionflowers



2. Longleaf Pines

Endangered Ecosystem



Longleaf Pines

Keystone Species

- Suppressed Fire Consequences
 - Change in Habitat
 - Growth of Scrub
- Growth of Oaks and Hardwoods
- Development Pressure



Photo by Sarah Phinney

Longleaf Pines

Scrub Meadow

- Grasses & Forbs
- Caterpillar / Butterfly Host Plants
- Food for Birds



Photo by David Perkey, Pinellas Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

Longleaf Pines

Scrub Meadow

- In-bloom / Seedheads
 - Florida Lupine
 - Coastal Pine Honecombhead
 - Pine Barren Frostweed
 - Partridge Peas



Longleaf Pines

Scrub Meadow

- In-bloom / Seedheads
 - Prickly Pear Cactus
 - Florida Goldenrod
 - Muhly Grass
 - Blue Toadflax
 - Beautybush
 - Netted Pawpaw



3. Evan's Deer Lichen

Specialist

- Dry, Upland Sites
- Fire-Maintained Sites
- Deer Food in Scrub / Alpine
- Indicates Clean Air



Scrub Edges

Small Oak Trees

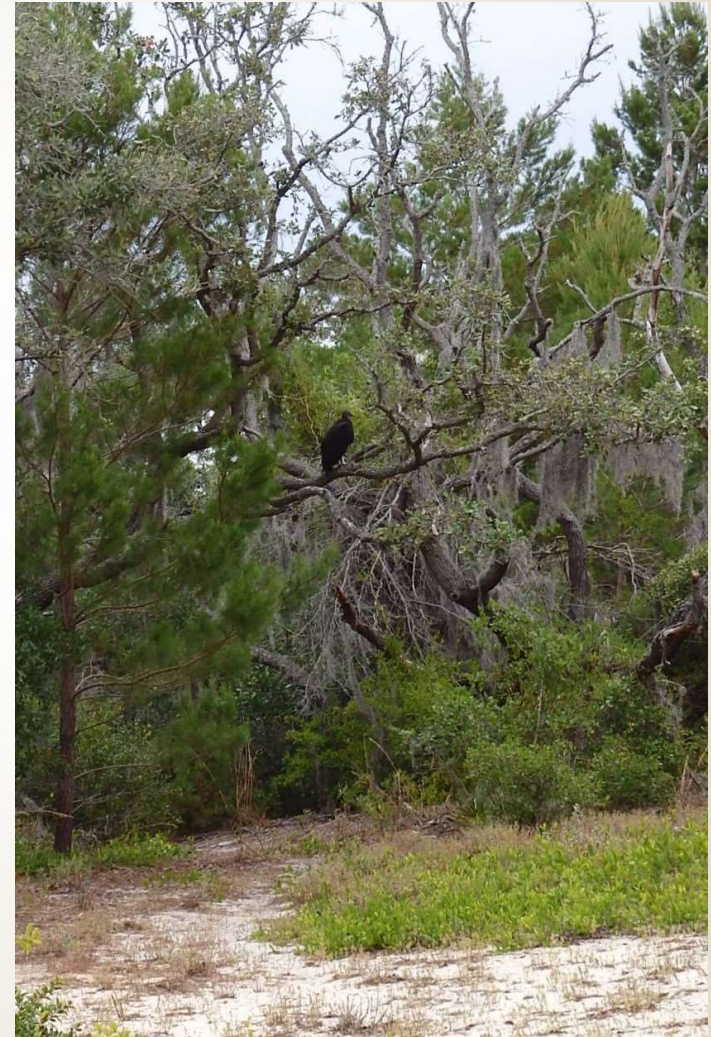
- Best for Small Yards - Not Huge Live Oaks
- Bluejack Oak
- Sand Live Oak



Photo by David Perkey, Pinellas Chapter Florida Native Plant Society

4. Gopher Apples

- Lush in Dry Scrub
- Food for Gopher Tortoises



5. Rosemary Bald

Imperiled Ecosystem

- Florida Rosemary
- in Decline Without Management Here
- Stress from Oak Shade
- > Year of Extreme Drought



Rosemary Bald

Imperiled Ecosystem

- Prefers Full Sun, Hot & Dry
- Propagation Challenges
- Allelopathic Roots
- Slow Fire Response
- Long Fire Intervals



Rosemary Bald

Gladys Douglas Preserve

- Florida Rosemary
- Deer Lichen
- Dunedin FL



5a. Giant Airplants

Endangered Species

- Pineapple Relative
- On Ground or in Trees
- > 5 on Preserve



Giant Airplants

Endangered Species

- Base 2' – 3' Across
- 4' Bloom Stalk



6. Upland Pine Scrub

Sand Pines

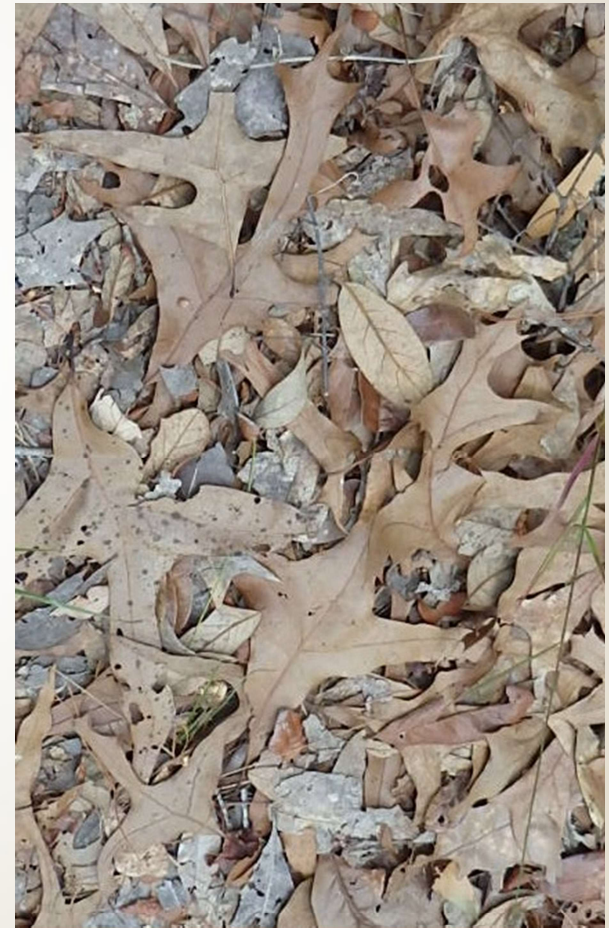
- Holds Cones
- Short Needles
- Fire Response



Upland Pine Scrub

Turkey Oaks

- Common Pine Partner
- Beautiful Fall Color in Landscapes



West Klosterman Preserve

Listed Species Map

Legend

GT – Gopher Tortoise Burrows

CE – Florida Rosemary
(*Ceratiola ericoides*)

TU – Giant Airplant
(*Tillandsia utriculate*)

Image from "PRELIMINARY FIELD SURVEY OF
THE 14-ACRE PCSB KLOSTERMAN ROAD SITE"
By Donald Richardson, Ph.D., CEP, PWS,
Ecological Consultants, Inc 08 March 2021



7. Invasive Exotic Plants

Almost All Invasives at Preserve Edges

- Future County Management Will Prevent Spread
 - Boston Fern or Sword Fern
 - Brazilian pepper - ***Beware Skin Irritation***



Invasive Exotic Plants

Invasives at Preserve Edges

- Future County Management Will Prevent Spread
 - Lantana
 - Madagascar Periwinkle



Invasive Exotic Plants

Invasives at Preserve Edges

- Future County Management Will Prevent Spread
 - Rosary pea – ***Do NOT Eat Seeds***

Please collect and dispose of red seeds

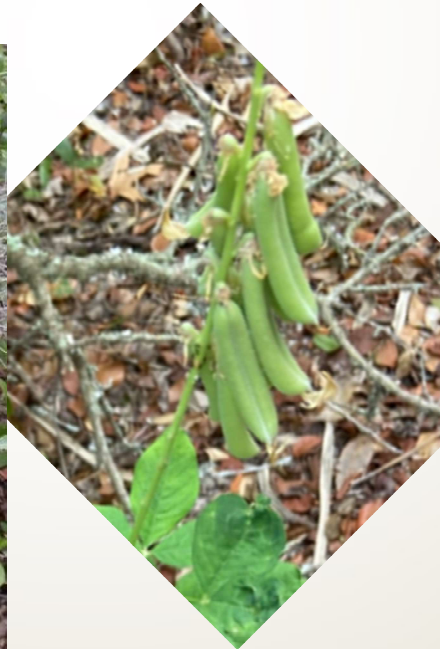


Invasive Exotic Plants

Almost All Invasives at Preserve Edges

- Future County Management Will Prevent Spread
 - Streaked Rattlepod

Please collect and dispose of seeds



Resources

- WKPreserve.com
- [Save The West Klosterman Preserve](#) *on Social Media*
- [Merlin App](#)
- [iNaturalist App](#)
- FNPS.org

