

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

October 6, 2025



### **Okaloosa County Celebrates Grand Opening of Bridge-to-Bridge Multi-Use Path**

*One-of-a-kind path features photoluminescent glowing rocks*

**Okaloosa County, Florida** – Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners is proud to announce the opening of the long-awaited Bridge-to-Bridge Multi-Use Path on Okaloosa Island with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, at 9 a.m. at Beasley Park.

This one-of-a-kind photoluminescent path connects the John T. Brooks Bridge (when bridge construction is complete) and the William T. Marler Bridge, featuring an approximately 4-mile, pedestrian-friendly, 12-foot-wide path that enhances safety and recreation for residents and visitors seeking to enjoy the picturesque natural setting in Destin-Fort Walton Beach.

“We can now enjoy a pedestrian-friendly area along this beautiful stretch of Northwest Florida between Destin and Fort Walton Beach,” said Okaloosa County Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel (District 2). “I truly appreciate the dedication of our Public Works team as they continue to foster great working relationships with Eglin Air Force Base.”

This path includes photoluminescent materials that will allow the path to glow at night which will invite a unique experience for those who choose to enjoy an evening outdoors. Beach access parking areas were improved with a more solid base and bollards were installed at strategic areas for added safety.

“This is a great example of how we are improving recreation and supporting healthy lifestyles in Okaloosa County,” said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Nixon. “We appreciate our state legislators who helped fund this effort that will provide a lasting benefit for Okaloosa residents and visitors.”

Those attending the ribbon cutting event are encouraged to walk the path or ride their bicycles after the ceremony to commemorate this community achievement.

Funding for the construction comes from multiple sources, including tourism revenue, a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, and a private donor.

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