

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

March 12, 2025



DESTIN
FORT
WALTON
BEACH
FLORIDA

Okaloosa County Announces Opening of One-of-A-Kind Playground at Ross Marler Park

Okaloosa County, Florida – Okaloosa County and Destin-Fort Walton Beach are proud to announce a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a one-of-a-kind playground at Ross Marler Park on Okaloosa Island, located at 1275 Santa Rosa Boulevard. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m.

The \$1.3 million playground transformation replaces an aging playground structure and was fully funded with revenue paid by tourists. Due to its location near the Choctawhatchee Bay and Gulf, it will benefit both locals and out-of-town visitors.

“This is another great example of how tourism revenue should be spent in Okaloosa County,” said Okaloosa County Board Chairman Paul Mixon. “This investment will enhance enjoyment for both our local families and visiting guests.”

The space features rubberized safety surfacing, multiple slides, play structures, sail shades and benches in a coastal-themed setting. The entire playground is a representation of Destin-Fort Walton Beach’s goal to get children outside while also providing interactive music, games and other opportunities for them to learn about marine life such as sea turtles and lionfish.

“This new space will be a safe place for children of all ages to play and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Okaloosa Island,” said District 2 Commissioner and Vice Chairman Carolyn Ketchel. “Having magnificent parks like these is a passion for me and I am pleased we are able to make these enhancements for everyone to enjoy.”

Ross Marler Park is one of more than three dozen County-maintained parks. You can learn more about Okaloosa County’s parks at <https://myokaloosa.com/parks>.

About Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida

www.destinfwb.com

Captivating sugar-white sand beaches and emerald-green waters await in Destin-Fort Walton Beach. Located in Northwest Florida, the destination is not only an ideal place to unwind and experience total relaxation along a 20-mile stretch of beach, but to uncover the adventurous side within. The family-friendly locale offers an environment of discovery to play and explore, inviting kids to get on the water and give their adventurous side room to grow. Visitors enjoy pristine beaches, Gulf-to-Table seafood, abundant watersport and other outdoor activities, championship golf, lively nightlife, and numerous attractions, festivals and events designed to thrill all ages.

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