



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



PRESS RELEASE

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SGT. GUTZWILLER MEMORIAL UNDERWAY AT WILLOWBROOK PARK

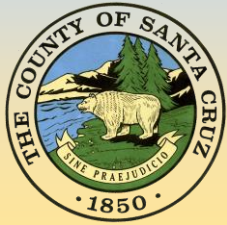
The County of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriff's Association and County Park Friends are pleased to announce that work on the memorial area of the Reimagining Willowbrook Park Project in Honor of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller is underway.

The ongoing project is a dedication to Gutzwiller, a Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Sergeant killed in the line of duty on June 6, 2020. Gutzwiller lived in the neighborhood and was a frequent visitor to Willowbrook County Park.

Supervisor Zach Friend stated, "Today's groundbreaking allows for hope and a new story to be told. As we create a reimagined park filled with sounds of cross-generational happiness from children and adults playing, and reflection, love and community support at the new memorial site."

Ethan Rumrill, President of the Santa Cruz Deputy Sheriffs' Association said, "The Santa Cruz Deputy Sheriffs' Association would like to thank County Park Friends, Supervisor Friend, and all of the other community partners and donors who contributed their time, efforts, and money to making this day possible. This memorial will serve as a place of beauty, peace and reflection for so many of us here in the community and will ensure that Sgt Damon Gutzwiller's sacrifice, and that of his family and all who knew him, will be forever remembered and honored."

Drawing on the support of numerous private and business donors, the memorial area of Willowbrook County Park will include a new seating/reflection area and flagpole that will be eternally flown on the south side of the park, as well as new monument signs and



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improved landscaping at the park's entrance. Fundraising for a new and more accessible playground structure is ongoing.

"We are excited to start construction on the renovations to Willowbrook County Park in Honor of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller. Damon gave his life for our community and now we can start the process of giving back at a county park that meant so much to him and his family. I am truly amazed at how quickly so many community members came together to make this first phase of the project start so quickly," said Santa Cruz County Parks Director, Jeff Gaffney.

Opportunities to be a part of this special project are still available. For more information, please visit countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook.