



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### SGT. GUTZWILLER TO BE HONORED AT WILLOWBROOK PARK

Damon Gutzwiller grew up in Santa Cruz County, owned his first home in the Willowbrook neighborhood and frequented Willowbrook County Park with his dog, Shasta. He was committed to public safety and served with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office for 14 years, rising to the rank of sergeant.

On June 6, 2020, Sgt. Gutzwiller was killed in the line of duty, leaving behind his partner and two young children, numerous friends and colleagues, and a legacy of service.

The Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Spaces and Cultural Services, the Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriff's Association, County Park Friends and Supervisor Zach Friend are honored to announce the plans for reimagining Willowbrook County Park in memory of Sergeant Gutzwiller. The project will include the installation of a beautiful memorial seating area on the south side of the pedestrian walkway bridge, park entry enhancements, updates to the play area and sport courts, and a new flagpole.

"This memorial will ensure Damon's sacrifice is never forgotten and provide a beautiful new reflection space at the park along with improvements that will benefit the community for years to come," Supervisor Friend said. "Damon and his family have paid the ultimate price on behalf of the community, and this will be fitting memorial for his service."

"Damon was a local who grew up to serve his community and often visited Willowbrook Park with his family. The Deputy Sheriff's Association is proud to support this project in honor of our fallen brother and his beautiful family. May we never forget his service," said Nick Baldrige, immediate past president of the Deputy Sheriff's Association.

If you would like to be a part of these memorial efforts through legacy dedications, please visit [countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook](http://countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook).