



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### WILLOWBROOK PARK RENAMED IN HONOR OF SGT. GUTZWILLER

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted unanimously to rename Willowbrook County Park after Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, who was killed in the line of the duty on June 6, 2020.

Willowbrook County Park in Honor of Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller is located in Aptos, and was frequented by Gutzwiller and his family, who live in the area. The Deputy Sheriff's Association, Santa Cruz County Parks Department and County Park Friends are working with the community to raise funding for significant park renovations in Gutzwiller's memory. Although more than \$250,000 has already been raised, park funding goals have yet to be met.

"The park will provide a place for his family, friends and our broader community to come reflect and share in the beauty of this special place. It's a park that held deep meaning to Damon and his family and now we are reimaging the park in a way that's befitting of his honor," Supervisor Zach Friend said.

"Damon's dedication and love for this county was clear to anyone who worked with him, far before his tragic death forever cemented his selfless commitment," said Sgt. Steve Ryan, close friend and coworker of Sgt. Gutzwiller. "It is my hope that those who visit this park will see his name and be reminded of the commitment and sacrifice Damon made, while thinking fondly of my friend and brother."

County Parks recently completed updates to the sports courts area. Additional updates include a new, more inclusive play area with new play surfacing, the construction and installation of a memorial seating area on the south side of the pedestrian walkway bridge, park entry enhancements and a new flagpole.

For more information or to learn more about opportunities to participate in this project please visit [www.countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook](http://www.countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook).