



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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AGC, MEMBERS DONATE \$20,000 TOWARD GUTZWILLER MEMORIAL

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce that the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of California and its member contractors Granite Construction, Granite Rock, and XL Construction have pledged \$20,000 towards the Reimagining Willowbrook Park Project in Honor of Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller. The park refresh project will serve as a dedication to Gutzwiller, a Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Sergeant killed in the line of duty on June 6, 2020.

"When AGC learned of the effort to honor Sergeant Gutzwiller's memory at Willowbrook Park, our local members were eager to help. We hope this contribution assists in moving the memorial forward and encourage the community to support this important project," said Chris O'Connor, Vice President for AGC of California.

AGC presented the check to County Park Friends, the Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriffs' Association, and the County Parks Department on August 30, 2022 at Willowbrook Park.

"From the beginning of the reimagining of this park, the Associated General Contractors has been an active partner," County Supervisor Zach Friend said. "Local landscapers, builders, and members of the trades have asked how they can help and they have delivered in a big way."

AGC's generous contribution to this campaign will go towards a newly constructed flagpole that will be eternally flown on the south side of the park. As a part of this project, the County of Santa Cruz has renamed the park in honor of Sergeant Gutzwiller, installed two new monument signs, and improved landscaping at the park's entrance. In addition to the flagpole, planned improvements include a new and more accessible playground structure and a memorial seating area to serve as a place of reflection for Damon's loved ones and the greater community.

"Sergeant Gutzwiller's legacy and dedication to his community will be forever felt in this park, said Kim Namba, Deputy Director for Santa Cruz County Parks. "Community contributions like that of AGC's are moving this project from vision to reality."

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, businesses, and organizations in Santa Cruz County, County Park Friends and the Santa Cruz County Deputy Sheriff's Association have partnered to raise over \$250,000 for this park. Opportunities to be a part of this special project are still available. For more information, please visit countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook.