



## COUNTY PARK FRIENDS

### PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **County Park Friends announces a \$50,000 major gift from Capitola-Aptos Rotary to sponsor the Willowbrook Park Memorial playground**

*Santa Cruz, Calif.* [County Parks Friends](https://www.countyparkfriends.org) has received \$50,000 from Capitola-Aptos Rotary for the Willowbrook Park Memorial campaign in honor of Sgt Damon Gutzwiller to sponsor the new accessible playground.

“This is a big step forward,” says Mariah Roberts, Executive Director of County Park Friends. “We applaud Capitola-Aptos Rotary for their investment and hope it will inspire others to follow suit.”

“Capitola-Aptos Rotary is proud to sponsor the playground at Willowbrook Park.” said Dr Arthur Dover, who proposed the project to the club, “This memorial will pay tribute to Damon Gutzwiller and will serve generations of families to come.”

The Memorial honors Damon Gutzwiller, who grew up in Santa Cruz County, owned his first home in the Willowbrook neighborhood and frequented Willowbrook County Park with his dog, Shasta. He 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 life partner Faviola Del Real, two young children, numerous friends and colleagues, and a legacy of service.

To learn more or give a gift, go to <https://www.countyparkfriends.org/willowbrook>  
Gifts of stock, ACH transfer and corporate matches are all gratefully accepted.

*County Park Friends works to preserve, protect, improve and promote the use of Santa Cruz County parks and open spaces, investing in PEOPLE and PLACES to activate the power of our parks. Fund us at [countyparkfriends.org](https://www.countyparkfriends.org)*