



**TRINITY
COMMUNITY
PARK**

*Community
Impact*
REPORT

trinitymonument.org/trinity-community-park

Inclusivity + Accessibility + Unity =
Everyone!!!

Trinity Community Park is not just a playground for kids.
It's not just the first ADA park in Monument.
We are a playground for EVERYONE at every stage of life!

*Equipment for all abilities
and every BODY type*

The logo for Trinity Community Park features the text "TRINITY COMMUNITY PARK" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: "TRINITY" on the top line, "COMMUNITY" on the middle line, and "PARK" on the bottom line. The text is set against a background of two overlapping brushstrokes: a light blue one on the left and a light green one on the right, both with a textured, painterly appearance.

**TRINITY
COMMUNITY
PARK**

*Where community comes **together***

TAMARA SCHWARZ, Executive Director

Why?

Trinity Lutheran Church has made a commitment to **inclusivity** in our community. We value bringing **EVERYONE** together to play, creating **unity**.



ADA requirements are not enough; being **inclusive** and **accessible** is more important. It's not just about people with disabilities, it's about **EVERYONE** enjoying and sharing the benefits of play: physical, sensory, and social. **Inclusive** playgrounds go beyond regular guidelines, facilitating engagement between people with physical challenges, development disabilities, the elderly, medically challenged and everyone in between. An **accessible** playground means that a person who uses a walking device, like a wheelchair, walker, or stroller can access the playground. If it is **inclusive**, the play activities are selected and laid out so that someone in a chair can engage with people of different abilities. This is a place where a senior citizen and a grandchild can play **TOGETHER**... creating **unity**!

Trinity was founded in 1985 in Monument, CO where it was originally surrounded by ranch land. Now, the church property sits among five home developments. The nearest park is almost two miles away, over a freeway, without sidewalks, on a busy state highway. Trinity has acres of land not being used, so we have aspired to build an accessible playground suitable for all abilities. We are committed to do more, with a merry-go-round for wheelchairs, sensory panels, unity swing, and a teeter totter where people with mobility challenges can sit, lie down, or hang out in the tunnel. Wait for it... plus a **wheelchair trampoline!** Yes, you read that correctly.



Accessible Whirl Merry-Go-Round

*"I could not imagine a merry-go-round that we all can go on - **TOGETHER** - as a **FAMILY!** Our minds were blown away that we could wheel our son onto the merry-go-round, and watch his eyes and head - connect with us, in ways I have not seen in a long time. What an amazing experience - and we can't wait to go again! I am telling **EVERYONE** about this amazing park!!!"*

- Lisa Macneir, whose son is special needs.

The more people come **TOGETHER** with all abilities, the more we see **similarities** instead of **differences**.

100 Year-old Marie

*"This was so **NEAT!**"*

It had been over 30 years since Marie felt the motion of a swing! It was so freeing to actually swing without her feet on the ground. Because of the *Special Rubber Safety Surfacing*, Marie was able to be with **EVERYONE** and not just sitting on a bench watching. She could get around with her walker and experience the laughter and joy with the kids firsthand. Trinity Community Park gave a 100 year-young lady the ability to participate in the musical panels, merry-go-round, swing, climbing elements, and **SO MUCH FUN**.



Phase 1 OPENED SUMMER 2022

Trinity raised over \$50,000 internally to start the project.

Due to the general lack of parks in the area, neighborhood kids were using the church's old playground and parking lot to ride bikes, scooters and play. The church once had a playground, but it had to be torn down due to aging equipment becoming a safety hazard.

Now, the community has access to a brand-new park with a swing set, tire swing, toddler swing, spring toy, slides and large climbing structure. The park also includes a .25 mile fitness walking path that is dog friendly and for people of all ages. The official ribbon-cutting happened on August 27th, 2022.



According to the 2020 Census, 50,000 people live in the Tri-Lakes area. Statistics show that 12% of the US population have a severe disability that affects at least one function of daily living. Playgrounds and parks are vital for community connections at every stage of life, yet most designs overlook the needs of 1-in-4 living with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities, autism, the medically fragile, and our aging population.



Phase 2

OPENED FALL 2023



Trinity said they would and DID!

Trinity Community Park is designed to give our community a space for people with and without disabilities a chance to play TOGETHER, a space where EVERYONE can participate equally. We have created an environment that extends access, kindness, and compassion to EVERYONE, affecting the wellbeing of an entire community.

We have provided ADA-compliant ramps and surfacing, **accessible** swings, wheelchair **accessible** whirl merry-go-round, **unity** teeter totter, rocking cozy cocoon, sensory equipment, sensory sandbox, even a wheelchair **accessible** trampoline. The expense of this project required funds from corporate sponsorships, grants and the larger community.

Trinity Community Park is the first ADA-**inclusive** and compliant playground in the Monument area. The closest **inclusive** accessible public playground is over 30 miles away. ADA guidelines can be limiting, but this park is **inclusive** giving people of all abilities a place to play - those of developmental disabilities such as autism, cognitive, sensory, physical and others.



"I believe this trampoline surprised Drew the most and activated him, both physically and mentally! It was so fun... family-like fun, to all hold hands and jump on the trampoline - laughing ALL TOGETHER!"

Drew, is 22 years old and has not experienced motion, besides a wheelchair, in a very long time.

Phase 3

OPENED FALL 2024

More amenities

The community asked for a pavilion. Trinity did more than just a pavilion. We added tables, benches, signage, a GaGa pit, sidewalk, handicap parking spots and some landscaping.



Phase 4

OPENING
NOVEMBER 2024

Dog Park

Why a dog park?

Girl Scout, Julia Zettlemoyer, had a vision to give dogs a place to play while people are playing at Trinity Community Park. As part of her Girl Scout Gold Award Project Julia is getting the fence, gate, agility equipment and signage installed.

Benefits

It gives it an opportunity for your dog to be free of a leash, an opportunity to be able to roam in an area and socialize with other dogs, and with other people as well.

A dog park offers a safe and engaging space for dog owners to bond with their pets while ensuring their dogs get the necessary exercise. No more backyard bathroom breaks - it's time to play and walk together!

TRINITY COMMUNITY PARK Dog Park

DOG PARK BENEFITS:

- Dog to be off leash
- Source of dog-dog social interaction
- Source of dog-people social interaction
- Owners learn through other dogs
- No cars, bikes, skateboards, etc.
- Around people that love dogs!
- Doggy play dates
- Fresh air
- Increase

DOG AGILITY BENEFITS:

- Mental focus
- Physical strength
- Athletic challenge
- Strengthens bones & joints

VISION BY
Julia Zettlemoyer
girl scouts gold award

Aspen Country Fence Inc.
194' x 100' Chain Link Fence
1770 Kullwood Dr
Trinity Community Park

Southern Colorado VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE AND ONCOLOGY
5520 N. Nevada Avenue (near Costco) 719-272-4004

SPONSORS:

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- Schwab Tires
- Donalita Water

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Why Dog Agility Equipment?

Essentially, the dog's mental focus and capability are sharpened. Physical strength building is another major benefit of dog agility training. Running through different obstacles is quite the athletic challenge for a canine. The athletic challenge keeps a dog fit, helps prevent obesity, increases endurance, and strengthens bones and joints. Plus, an agility course exercises a dog's mind, giving them opportunities to learn and solve problems. Plus agility training will also help you keep in shape!

At Trinity Community Park we are upcycling materials for the dog park. Reusing rubber tires for the park is a brilliant idea!

Phase 6 & Beyond

In the planning and funding phases...

- ❖ Labyrinth and Meditation Garden
- ❖ Platform Wheelchair Swing
- ❖ Restroom Facility
- ❖ Turf Field

TRINITY COMMUNITY PARK Sensory Trail

HAND RAILS:
Having the senses on your feet are one thing, but including this onto your hands while on the path elevates more senses. Each section will have a different texture.

- Rope
- Chain Link
- Nylon Rope
- Vehicle Strap (fabric)
- PVC
- Chain Link with Plastic Coating
- Composite Wood
- Metal pipe

TACTILE WALL:
Various sensory items for people to touch, turn, ring, feel, and experience. From bells, clasps, rope, tire, latches, pipes, metal, plastic, turf, bumpy, smooth, etc. Built with composite wood for longevity, a roof and sides to protect the wall from environmental elements.

FOOT PATH SENSES:

- Pavers or Bricks
- Large Landscape Bark
- River Rocks
- Pinecones
- Turf
- Small Granite Rock
- Black Drain Pipe
- Tree Trunk Circles
- Concrete with rocky surface
- Moveable Planks

RAISED HAND SENSORY BOXES SENSES:

- River Rocks and other size rocks
- Turf and pinecones
- Small Granite Rock
- Black Drain Pipe and PVC
- Tree Trunk Circles

Phase 5

OPENING
SUMMER 2025

Sensory Trail

What is a Sensory Trail?

A sensory trail is a purposefully designed pathway that stimulates the senses through various tactile, auditory, olfactory, and visual elements. It offers an immersive experience, allowing individuals to explore and engage with their environment.

Sensory Sandbox



Many children on the autism spectrum struggle with sensory processing disorder (SPD). This condition makes it hard to perceive or respond to stimuli received through their senses. Sensory sand play is beneficial to people with SPD because it integrates all major senses into playtime comfortably. Placing your hands in a sandbox, you enter a world of restriction-free imaginative play.



Tree Saplings

Earth Day 2024

Earth Day the community planted 50 douglas fir tree saplings at the park, giving families a chance to beautify the neighborhood, put a dent in the carbon footprint, and loving planet earth.



is all about **COMMUNITY.**

We appreciate the local scout & student projects!

Birdhouses



School District 38 middle school students built bird houses and Special Needs students painted them.

Landscaping



Matthew Grundel (part of troop 9) completed his Boy Scout Eagle Project landscaping two areas at TCP. He made the entrance safer and more inviting.



Free Little Libraries



Trinity has two Little Library exchange boxes designed and made by Logan Miles as an Eagle Scout project. One is directly in the playground and one on the street near the driveway. These boxes are building community and inspiring readers by expanding 24/7 book access to EVERYONE.

Donate a Book ~ Take a Book

together

Gaga Pit & More



Benton Miles did his Boy Scout Eagle Project with help from troop 17, building the tables, benches, message board and move the GaGa pit to where EVERYONE can use it.

Painted Rocks

Our rock garden is meant to spread kindness and love. If you want to spread kindness, please add a rock or two to help our garden grow! National Honor Students and the larger community have helped supply inspirational painted rocks to line the sidewalk to the playgrounds.



How you can make a Difference...

- Phase 1 Playground - opened May 2022
- Phase 2 ADA compliant playground - opened Fall 2023
- Phase 3 Pavilion, tables, benches, signage, gaga pit and fitness trail - opened Summer 2024
- Phase 4 Dog Park – opened Fall 2024
- Phase 5 Sensory Trail – coming 2025
- Phase 6 & Beyond Labyrinth/Meditation garden, turf field, restroom and more planned

We are committed to this crucial project for our community and for ALL people of today and tomorrow. More than 50,000 people live in Northern El Paso County in close proximity to the park.

We are requesting your partnership in realizing our INCLUSIVITY goals. We need more tax deductible donations to make this a reality. We need your assistance in realizing our goals.



.2 mile walking track



Pavillion

Making this project a reality creates a close, safe, **inclusive** play area for our children and EVERYONE. TOGETHER we can build a park that is **inclusive, accessible** and **unites** EVERYONE to play TOGETHER.

Testimonials

Thank you to Trinity Lutheran Church for not making our family feel alone, but giving us the feeling of inclusion. There is plenty of time, daily, that I sweat the big stuff! I believe in celebrating the small stuff like smiles and being able to be together, outside, doing 'typical' family events. The simple joys of family time at the park! This is truly a Family First approach!

-Lisa, Drew's mom

We've never taken Siobhan to a special needs playground, since the closest one is 30 minutes away. Traditional playgrounds are completely inaccessible, since she is cortically blind with no fine motor skills. Kids like Siobhan need a hands-on approach to be able to use park equipment.

- Sharon and Brad Gann, Siobhan's parents

Siobhan loves the swing! She is an adult with Cerebral Palsy who is cortically blind, has no motor skills and is developmentally age 2. The swing is big enough for her to sit in and be buckled. She cannot ride on any traditional swings without the danger of falling. The ADA swing lets her enjoy that motion of swinging while being completely safe. Just like anyone else, Siobhan can go for several minutes enjoying the motion. She finds it relaxing and fun. It is a great structure to have at the Trinity Community Park.

- Brad Gann, Siobhan's father

Everyone can agree, there is something so special about spending the day as a family, where all of us can be included in the fun, and nobody has to sit on the sidelines. The excitement I felt when I heard about this new accessible park coming to our neighborhood can be best described as - appreciation! My son is my superhero. He has a debilitating disability and now is in a wheelchair, unable to swing or be included in typical "play time." SO - we do not go to parks any more. Yes, sad!



"Siobhan did not know what to think of the trampoline. We bounced on it holding hands. It is important for her to get some impact in her legs and back, to help with her bone density and strength. The trampoline can give her a little of that sensation. It is physical motion that she cannot get anywhere else. Trinity Community Park is an important place which will provide these different experiences for Siobhan."



DREW



SIOBHAN



Testimonials



SUSAN

Tamara Schwarz swinging with Susan and learning her routine

“As an adult, I’ve discovered that using playground swings offers incredible benefits for my neural function. Swinging stimulates multiple areas of my brain as once, enhancing my spatial awareness, balance, rhythm, and muscle control. It also boosts blood flow to my brain, improving my focus and attention, while developing my motor skills. Engaging my vestibular and proprioceptive systems through swinging has significantly supported my balance and body awareness, contributing to my overall neural growth and sensory integration.”

- Susan DePew

I am a Pediatric Occupational therapist that has been working in the Pikes Peak region for the past 8.5 years. I work with kids of all abilities in their homes and in the community setting to facilitate access play in the least restrictive way. Having access to community spaces built for children of all abilities to play without barriers is a huge resource for the Monument area. I have had the pleasure of using

the Trinity Community Park for therapy sessions with children on the spectrum with sensory needs. The playground allows for vestibular, proprioceptive and tactile stimulation for self-regulation. This park space encourages children of all abilities to be integrated into play. I look forward to continuing to use the park to help the families I work with.

-Tory Weinstein OTR/L



ASHTON

This park is a true gem for our community. Our son Ashton is 12 & noncommutative, with several sensory needs. Our older children & grandchildren are able to find a way to connect with Ashton on a level they have never had before. To see Ashton enjoy life & hear him laugh gives our family a new bond at Trinity Community Park.

~ Faith Ferguson, Ashton’s mom

Ashton is 12 years old with Bardet-Biedl Syndrome.



We have been members of the Monument community since 1983 and of Trinity Lutheran Church since 1992. We had a son, Nathan John Balk born in July of that year who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. We were prepared for a life of caring for his needs when he unexpectedly died at 5 months old. The memorial proceeds we received at his death were used to build the original playground at Trinity in 1993.

Our older children grew up up on the original playground and now our grandkids, including Nathan Otto and Jacob, pictured, are enjoying the new equipment. Knowing how much an ADA playground would have meant to us and is meaning to others is why we've been passionate about completing Trinity Community Park.

- John and Karla Balk




Photo of John and Karla Balk with their children and grandchildren. John is holding the sign from the original Trinity playground that was built with memorial funds in honor of their late child Nathan and another child Corey Reiner. The original playground was torn down in 2021 and the inspiration for Trinity Community Park took off.



Sponsorship Levels

TIER 1 PLATINUM	\$75,000+
TIER 2 GOLD	\$10,000 – \$75,000
TIER 3 SILVER	\$1,000 – \$10,000
TIER 4 BRONZE	Under \$1,000

THANK YOU



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In the Press

Ground-Breaking

THE TRIBUNE
 Mar 23, 2022
https://gazette.com/thetribune/monument-church-breaks-ground-on-accessible-community-park/article_005a14de-a619-11ec-a88a-3f60efaf1271.html

Grand Opening Phase 1, Phase 2 Coming

GAZETTE/TRIBUNE
 Sept 6, 2023
https://gazette.com/thetribune/trinity-community-park-expands-with-new-accessible-playground-equipment/article_e721121c-6082-11ee-b5b3-17d67c6fe9a9.amp.html
FOX 21
 Aug 25, 2022
<https://www.fox21news.com/news/accessible-park-grand-opening-in-monument/>

Phase 2 Build

THE TRIBUNE
 Oct 9, 2023
https://gazette.com/thetribune/trinity-community-park-expands-with-new-accessible-playground-equipment/article_e721121c-6082-11ee-b5b3-17d67c6fe9a9.amp.html

Phase 2

OCB Oct 7, 2023
Zettlemoyer earns Gold Award



Above: Colorado Springs Girl Scout Jillian Zettlemoyer, 18, (in photo) built a sandbox for the new Trinity Community Park in Monument. Zettlemoyer spent about eight months planning and building the project to earn the Scouts' Gold Award. Fewer than 6 percent of Girl Scouts earn that award. She got help from her parents and some Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets. The playground is fully compliant with the American With Disabilities Act. It's located behind Trinity Lutheran Church at 17750 Knollwood Drive. Photo by Tamara Schwarz.

Jefferson Award

KOAA NEWS
 MARCH 19, 2024
<https://www.koaa.com/community/jefferson-awards/news-5-jefferson-award-winner-created-first-ada-accessible-park-in-monument>
FOX NEWS
 Apr 1, 2024
<https://www.fox21news.com/news/new-ada-park-offers-fun-for-all-to-the-town-of-monument/>

Schwarz Receives Award

THE TRIBUNE
 Apr 1, 2024
https://gazette.com/thetribune/schwarz-receives-award-for-spearheading-trinity-community-park-project/article_d4ad13a2-eeca-11ee-9abe-2b0d5ea766e6.html

Phase 2&3 Celebration

KRDO Aug 24, 2024
<https://krdo.com/news/2024/08/24/monuments-first-ada-compliant-community-park-opens/>
FOX NEWS
<https://www.fox21news.com/news/ada-compliant-park-monument/amp/>
GAZETTE/THE TRIBUNE
https://gazette.com/thetribune/additions-celebrated-at-trinity-community-park/article_083ae42e-626b-11ef-8cb4-53bf60dce610.html
KDVR NEWS
<https://kdvr.com/news/local/one-of-a-kind-ada-accessible-community-playground-expands-in-monument/>

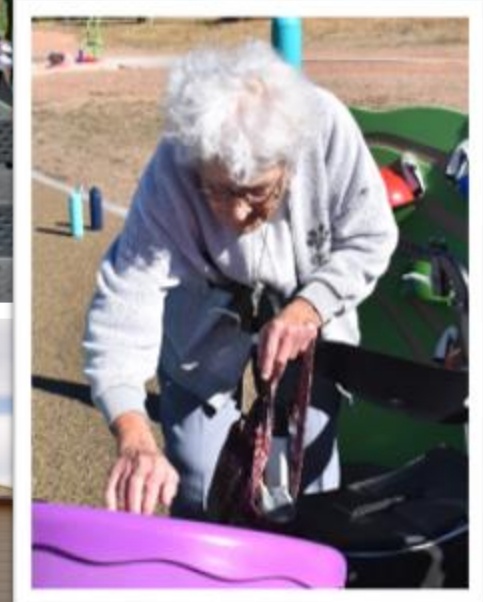


Earth Day

OCN May 4, 2024



Above: Volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church and the surrounding community planted 50 Douglas fir saplings at Trinity Community Park on a cold, foggy Earth Day April 21. The saplings were donated by Neighborhood Forest, a national group that gives free trees to kids to plant every Earth Day. This year, it gave away 67,000 trees. From left are Vivi Rinnels, Kaydyn Berg, and Kayley Ramer. Photo by Samantha Johnson.



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Tamara & Drew say

Thank You

<http://trinitymonument.org/trinity-community-park>



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