



**TRINITY  
COMMUNITY  
PARK**

*Community  
Impact*  
**REPORT**

[trinitymonument.org/trinity-community-park](http://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 Community Park 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 Lutheran 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 25 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

## OPENED WINTER 2025

### Dog Park

Girl Scout, Julia Zettlemoyer, had a vision to give dogs a place to play while people are playing as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.

It gives an opportunity for your dog to be free of a leash with other dogs and people.

Using agility equipment, a dog's mental focus is sharpened and physical strength built. Which keeps a dog and human fit.

A dog park offers a safe and engaging space for dog owners to bond with their pets while ensuring their dogs and them get the necessary exercise.



### 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!



### 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.

The Sensory Trail has 11 different textures to feel with shoes, barefoot or walking devices. The Sensory Wall has various textures with hidden doors, elements, 38 various chimes, and more. Try it blindfolded!

Come explore your touch, sound, smell and sight.



# Phase 5

## Sensory Trail

### OPENED SUMMER 2025



# Phase 6

## Meditation Space & Labyrinth

### OPENED SUMMER 2025



Provide a valuable resource for visitors seeking solace, spiritual renewal, and a deeper connection with themselves and the natural world. Quieting your mind, walking active meditation to clear your mind, well-being and personal growth.

Space also includes a Rotary Peace Pole in the center of the labyrinth, swing bench, wind chime and wind spinner art.

Project Manager, Austin Johnson, volunteered over 90 hours and managed 200+ volunteer hours for college applications.



## & Beyond

### In the planning phases...

- ❖ Restroom Facility
- ❖ Turf Field

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



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.

## Gaga Pit & More



## 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

## 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 near the Sensory Trail.



# How you can make a Difference...

- Phase 1 Playground - opened May 2022
- Phase 2 Accessible 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 – opened Summer 2025
- Phase 6 Labyrinth/Meditation space – Summer 2025
- & Beyond Turf field, restroom and more planned



We are committed to 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 donations to make this a reality.*

*All donations are tax deductible.*

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 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 9 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 14 years old with Bardet-Biedl Syndrome.



*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.*



*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*



# THANK YOU



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# Thank You, Sponsors!

Additional Sponsors:

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# In the Press

**Ground-Breaking**  
**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 Mar 23, 2022  
[https://gazette.com/thetribune/monument-church-breaks-ground-on-accessible-community-park/article\\_005a14de-a619-11ec-a88a-3f60efaf1271.html](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**  
**FOX 21** Aug 25, 2022  
<https://www.fox21news.com/news/accessible-park-grand-opening-in-monument/>

**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
**Sept, 6, 2022**  
<https://gazette.com/2022/09/06/monument-church-volunteers-make-dream-of-accessible-community-park-a-reality-with-more-to-come-b13a1854-2c69-11ed-8b0e-377abc1d271e/>

**Phase 2 Build**  
**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 Oct 9, 2023  
[https://gazette.com/thetribune/trinity-community-park-expands-with-new-accessible-playground-equipment/article\\_e721121c-6082-11ee-b5b3-17d67c6efea9\\_amp.html](https://gazette.com/thetribune/trinity-community-park-expands-with-new-accessible-playground-equipment/article_e721121c-6082-11ee-b5b3-17d67c6efea9_amp.html)

**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/>  
**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 Apr 1, 2024  
[https://gazette.com/thetribune/schwarz-receives-award-for-spearheading-trinity-community-park-project/article\\_d4ad13a2-eecc-11ee-9abe-2b0d5ea766e6.htm](https://gazette.com/thetribune/schwarz-receives-award-for-spearheading-trinity-community-park-project/article_d4ad13a2-eecc-11ee-9abe-2b0d5ea766e6.htm)

**Earth Day**  
**OCN** May 4, 2024  
 Earth Day tree planting, Apr. 21  
  
 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.

**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](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/>

**Schwarz Receives**  
**National Award -**  
**Daily Points of Light**  
**Award**  
**APRIL 16, 2025**  
<https://www.pointsoflight.org/awards/a-place-for-everyone-how-one-couple-built-an-inclusive-park-from-the-ground-up/>  
**OUR COMMUNITY NEWS**  
 June 5, 2025  
<https://wp.ocn.me/v25n7photos/>  
**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 June, 11 2025  
<https://daily.gazette.com/the-tribune-tri-lakes/20250611>

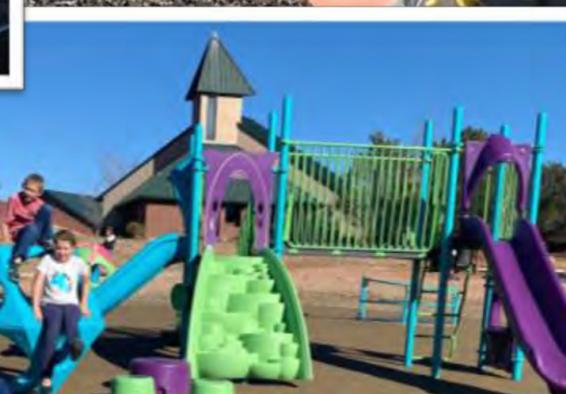
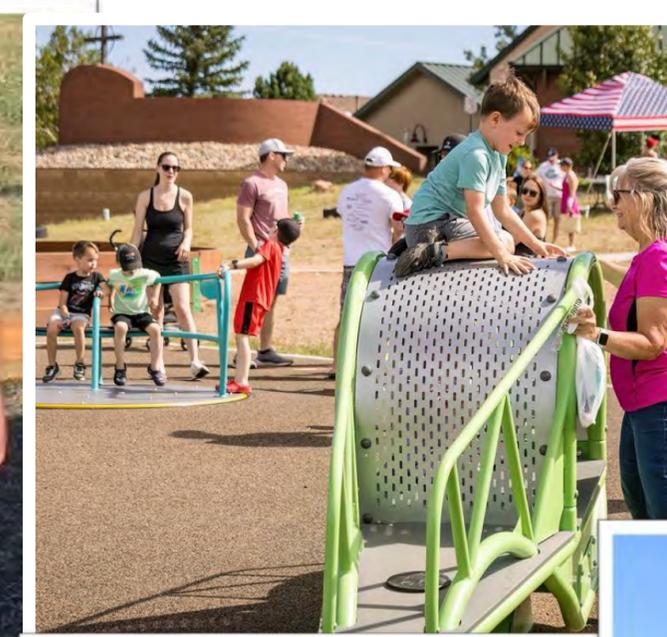
**Tri-Laker of the Month**  
**Monument Living Magazine Sept. 2025**  
  
 Community Corner  
**Tri-Laker of the Month: Tamara Schwarz**  
 By Teresa Avila  
 Common Ground: Community Builds Accessible Playground  
 Tamara Schwarz and her husband Ron moved to Monument in 1992. "I remember one of our first Christmas card letters noting our town included its first stop light. Things have certainly changed since then," recalls Tamara. The Schwarz family left California seeking a small town feel, fewer distractions and more community. Drawn to the area by the natural beauty of the area, they were won over by the friendly people. As their roots deepened, they found the small town "personal touch" to be a very real thing. "When the Lewis-Palmer hockey team (which our son was part of) won the state championship, the entire community supported them from the first department experts to a free team dinner at Rosie's Diner, and a Town Proclamation. This community is like a family; families come together to support one another during celebrations and challenges," she said. The Schwarz's have a common vision of what community is, best described as a connection to each other through shared experiences and values, to make our community not just a "hometown," but a "home." When COVID threatened to shut down the community, these two rolled up their sleeves and found an opportunity to reinvest in their community, literally. "We decided to rebuild the Trinity Lutheran Church playground with our stimulus checks and have it be a welcoming resource for the entire community. The church had several acres of land not being used, we aspired to build the first ADA compliant park in the region, open to all."  
 Tamara has a long list of folks to thank for their efforts, including Trinity Lutheran Church, Girl and Boy Scouts, and individual volunteers. "The Town of Monument and Trinity Community Park have collaborated well with mutual benefits. Tri-Lakes Dynamic Rotary held a fundraiser for the Meditation Calming Garden, plus helped build the space and labyrinth. Nothing proves true "buy-in" like digging in with one's hands. That's "community" working together!" boasts Tamara. Tamara won't boast about herself though, but her recognition speaks volumes. She received the national Jefferson Award in March 2024 for extraordinary public service and the Daily Point of Light Award in April 2025 for making a significant community impact. "These awards are really a testament to our community and all the hard work many people have put into creating a park on the east side of US 25," Tamara humbly explains. While Tamara and Ron love their community, their hearts are with their grown children and new granddaughter. These new grandparents will make many memories with their growing family, anchored by a playground that represents their shared love for family and community. Want to get involved? Contact Tamara at tamara@trinitymonument.org.

**Phase 4, 5, 6**  
**OCN** Oct 4, 2025  
<https://wp.ocn.me>  
 #295 — Volume 25 Number 10 — Saturday, October 4, 2025 Free  
**Trinity Community Park expands**  
  
 Above: Trinity Community Park continues to expand! It's added three more elements, a meditation labyrinth, a sensory trail and a small dog park. Ribbon cuttings were held on Sept. 21. The sensory trail contains colorful metal sculptures that children can hit with mallets to make music (see photo). Executive Director Tamara Schwarz, quoting her husband, Ron, told the crowd, "Children represent 17% of our population, but they represent 100% of our future. Giving them a safe space to come and play and be kids and enjoy life, isn't that what it's all about? That's what Trinity Community Park is all about." In the photo, 1-year-old John Morridge plays music at the sensory trail. Photo by Michael Weinfeld.

**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 October 6, 2025  
<https://gazette.com/2025/10/06/trinity-community-park-unveils-new-phases/>

**Scouts & Community Projects**  
**OCN** Oct 7, 2023  
<https://wp.ocn.me/v23n10ss/>  
**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 August 24, 2024  
**Boy Scout Landscaping**  
[https://gazette.com/thetribune/additions-celebrated-at-trinity-community-park/article\\_083ae42e-626b-11ef-8cb4-53bf60dce610.html](https://gazette.com/thetribune/additions-celebrated-at-trinity-community-park/article_083ae42e-626b-11ef-8cb4-53bf60dce610.html)  
**GAZETTE/ TRIBUNE**  
 August 25, 2025  
**Girl Scout Dog Park**  
<https://gazette.com/2025/08/25/girl-scout-gold-award-creates-new-dog-park-in-monument-816f00d3-14fa-4d26-84ad-f3ddf7b0f23/>  
**Boy Scout Park Amenities**  
**Built Labyrinth Community Service**





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Tamara & Drew say

*Thank You*

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



WEBSITE



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