



# NEWS RELEASE

## City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

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**March 5, 2008**

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## SPRING HAS SPRUNG EARLY IN THE VALLEY *Annual blooming of cherry blossoms under way at Lake Balboa*

**LOS ANGELES** – The bloom of cherry blossoms at Lake Balboa, located in the heart of the San Fernando Valley and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, should be at peak viewing from Thursday, March 6, through Sunday, March 16, 2008.

A harbinger of spring, the voluminous display of bright pink flowers can be seen during daylight hours; the lake is a picturesque component of Anthony C. Beilenson Park, which is in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area and a favorite of photographers and other artists.

The lake area is home to more than 2,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees of the Pink Cloud variety, which means they are ornamental flowering trees and not fruit-producing. The flower has a single row of petals in a circular shape, like those found on cherry trees in Japan.

Donated by an anonymous benefactor from the Far East nation, the trees originated from a single parent tree and were developed to grow in warm climates. The Department of Recreation and Parks began planting them in 1992.

The entrance to Beilenson Park is on the east side of Balboa Blvd., between Burbank Blvd. and Victory Blvd. Amenities include a bicycle path, a path for walking/jogging, picnic areas and a children's play area, as well as pedal boats, kayaking, fishing, and more.

The 2,000-acre Sepulveda Recreation Area also has three 18-hole golf courses, two sports centers, an off-leash dog park, a garden center, wildlife refuge, archery range, model airplane field, and more. For more information about the recreation area, call (818) 785-5798.

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For more information about Department of Recreation and Parks events, activities, services, programs, and facilities, go to [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org), or call 311, or (213) 928-9200.