



MEDIA ADVISORY

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

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THE BEAUTY OF NATURE AT SPRINGTIME

Cherry trees are blossoming at Lake Balboa, in the San Fernando Valley

WHEN: Thursday, March 6 – Sunday, March 16, 2008 Daytime hours

WHERE: Lake Balboa (Anthony C. Beilenson Park) 6300 Balboa Blvd.

WHAT: Hundreds of Japanese cherry blossom trees will be at their peak bloom at this City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' operated facility located in Van Nuys. The trees were donated by an anonymous Japanese benefactor; the Department of Recreation and Parks began planting them in 1992. The cherry trees at Lake Balboa are the ***Pink Cloud*** variety, which means they are ornamental flowering trees and not fruit-producing. They originated from a single parent tree and were developed to grow in warm climates. The flower has a single row of petals in a circular shape, just like those that are found on cherry trees in Japan.

NOTE: Another Department facility - **Stoner Recreation Center, 1835 Stoner Ave. in West Los Angeles**, has a smaller collection of cherry trees, as well as a Japanese garden. This facility is staffed seven days a week and can be reached at (310) 479-7200.

VISUALS: Bright pink cherry blossoms in bloom both lakeside and elsewhere
Park-goers engaged in various outdoor activities and enjoying the view

TO GET TO LAKE BALBOA (ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN PARK): From the **101 (Ventura) Freeway**, exit at Balboa Blvd. Take Balboa Blvd. north ½-mile to the Lake Balboa/Anthony C. Beilenson Park entrance, which is on the east (right) side of the street. Follow the road around to the lake. **OR:** From the **405 (San Diego) Freeway**, exit at Victory Blvd. Take Victory Blvd. west 1½ miles to Balboa Blvd. Take Balboa Blvd. south ¼-mile to the entrance, which is on the left. (*Thomas Guide page 531, grid D7*).

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