



NEWS RELEASE

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

Public Information Office 1200 W. 7th St., Suite 700 Los Angeles, CA 90017 (213) 928-9200 / fax: (213) 928-9288

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MEDIA CONTACT(S)

Jane Kolb: (213) 928-9294, or cell, (323) 816-6712

Harvey Drut: (213) 928-9296, or cell, (323) 816-6711

IT'S CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME ONCE AGAIN

Annual blooming at Lake Balboa, in the San Fernando Valley

LOS ANGELES – The 2009 blooming of cherry blossoms at Lake Balboa should be at peak viewing through Sunday, March 15. Situated in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, the trees present a breathtaking drive, bicycle ride, walk, or photo opportunity.

The lake is in a picturesque portion of Anthony C. Beilenson Park, a City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks facility located in the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area, with an additional hour of sunlight starting March 8, when daylight saving time began.

At lakeside and in the surrounding area are nearly 1,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees of the Pink Cloud variety, which are ornamental flowering trees and not fruit-producing; the flower has a single row of bright pink petals in a circular shape.

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.

Visitors can enter Beilenson Park on the east side of Balboa Blvd., between Burbank Blvd. and Victory Blvd. Features include a path for bicycling and another for walking/jogging, picnic areas and a children's play area, as well as pedal boats, kayaking, fishing, and more.

The location is also easily accessible using public transportation, with an Orange Line stop at Balboa Blvd. and Victory Blvd.; the park is a short distance from there. The Orange Line connects with the Red Line, which travels to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

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, or call 311, or (213) 928-9200.