



# NEWS RELEASE

## City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

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## CHERRY BLOSSOMS ABLOOM TWICE IN 2009

*Scene at San Fernando Valley's Lake Balboa is better the second time*

**LOS ANGELES** – The cherry blossoms at Lake Balboa are abloom for a second time in 2009, with the sequel providing an even more impressive daytime display of magnificent pink flowers through the first weekend of April than the initial bloom in early March.

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, which is in the heart of the San Fernando Valley. Whether by car, bicycle, or on foot, the view is breathtaking and makes for a terrific photo opportunity – or a painter's palette.

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](http://www.laparks.org), or call 311, or (213) 202-2700.