# **Trails Forever**

A.D., when the Japanese celebrated the fertility of the earth with the moon and Mount Fuji. Currently, the Japanese celebrate the blossoms with hanami. Literally meaning "flower viewing," the term traditions of hanami, the blossoms are best appreciated when seen near reflective bodies of water. As a result, the cherry trees fittingly stand throughout the park along the Potomac River and around the Tidal Basin. When an ancient temple appears within the scene, the National Mall and Memorial Parks affords panoramas of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial framed by blossoms, in accord with the best traditions of hanami.



Sakura kana\*

\*(life is short, like the three-day glory of the cherry blossom)

# Welcome to the National Mall and Memorial Parks!

Mrs. Scidmore attends and

ees in the park. Dr. Fairchild



Mrs. Eliza Scidmore r

Building and Grounds

Potomac Waterfront.

the next 24 years

Nothing heralds the arrival of spring in the Nation's Capital as the blooming of the Japanese Cherry trees, gifts from Japan in 1912. Willions of people gather in Washington, D.C. every year to see the dramatic blossoms and participate in a myriad of events. In order to optimize your cherry viewing experience, we have created this easy-to-use walking guide outlining three routes, all full of natural and cultural treasures for you to experience. Park Rangers are on hand at various locations in the park should you need

Be sure to join a Park Ranger for some of the many interpretive programs going on throughout the park! Also, during the annual two weeks of the National Cherry Blossom Festival enjoy city-wide cultural performances, art and crafts demonstrations and much

On behalf of the Superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks, have a fun and safe viewing

Biossoms, Cherry Blossoms. Across March skies. As far as you can see. Mists or cloud ragrance is floating. Let us go, let us go. It's a must to see!

Potomac Park.

1913-1920

1927

becomes an

1935

1938

Blossom Festival cut down in what is assume

bombing of Pearl Harbor.

the rest of the war



cherry trees are destroyed in Park Service sends budwood rom descendants of those trees back to Tokyo in effort to restore original site.

donates the Mikimoto Pear Crown, made of two pounds of gold and holding 1,589 pearls, to coron

the National Park Service in bassador, re-enact the 1912 trees to original 1912 amoun

Jsuzumi" tree growing in the Itasho Neo villad its people, and planted in the park.

from 1400+ old

2002 - 2005 1997 1982

Black Garters, Large Rodents, and Cherry Trees.

What's the Connection?

In the spring of 1999 the symbol of friendship, the herald of spring, the natural icon of the National Mall: the Japanese Cherry Trees were

threatened by locals. These locals are native to the region and are the

largest rodents in North America. They average 3 feet (1 m) in length and weigh up to 44 lbs. (20kg). Their incisors allow them to fell large

and damaged several others causing a national uproar. The National Park Service had to decide how to manage the native beaver species

and the non-native cherry trees. Relocating the beaver family solved

vulnerable trees. These black "garters" and chicken wire enclosures

keep beavers from girdling and killing the trees. Management practices have been successful so far, ensuring the legacy of the cherry trees lives

676 replacement cherry tree

are planted via donations to

the problem. Physical barriers were also installed around more

on to hearken again the coming of spring in our nation's capital.

trees. They eat tree bark, water plants, shrubs, grasses, and fruits. These rodents are beavers and three of them felled four trees in 1999

USDA finds tree

children re-enact original planting int first two trees in small

beloved cherry trees in from being destroyed

selected

and to replace trees that The cycle of gift giving

lohnson. She and Mrs. Rvui

ain genetic characteristics

450 trees propagated from cuttings are taken from from the 1912 shipmer

the surviving trees from the 1912 donation are planted to ensure the preservation of the genetic lineage. PLEASE DO NOT PICK THE BLOSSOMS!

## Who takes care of the cherry trees?

The care of the cherry trees is entrusted to the National Mall and Memorial Parks tree crew, each one a professional arborist. Their hard work and loyalty to this precious resource has ensured the survival of the flowering cherries, living gifts and symbols of friendship.

# How you can help!

During your visit, there are things you can do to protect the trees such as not walking on the roots, not picking the blossoms, and not climbing the trees. To help maintain and preserve the Cherry trees you can donate to the Cherry Tree Endowment Fund by calling (202) 407 - 9408 or by going online to:

### www.nationalmall.org/donationform.php

Use the drop down menu to select Cherry Tree Endowment Fund. The fund is managed by the Trust for the National Mall, the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall.





### Want to learn more?

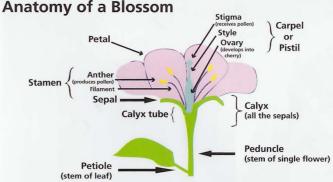
Website: www.nps.gov/cherry

www.nationalcherryblossomfesitval.org Radio: 1670 AM

Guide By Cell: (202) 747-3465

Festival Information Line: (877)-44-BLOOM





## What's in a name?

Scientific names are comprised of the genus and species, with the first letter of the genus capitalized and species lowercase, and both underlined or italicized. For

Prunus serrulata = Oriental Cherry Beyond grouping to the species level, there are also subspecies or varieties. These are naturally occurring, populations (not just individuals) that differ from the rest of the species. When naming varieties, the letters var. are used, as in: Prunus subhirtella var. pendula = Weeping Japanese Cherry Prunus subhirtella var. autumnalis = Autumn Flowering Cherry

Beyond the species level there is the 'cultivar' grouping. These are like varieties, except they are not naturally occurring. Cultivars (cultivated variety) are developed by humans deliberately breeding plants of the same species to develop some desired trait, and that trait will be passed on to the plants' offspring when grown from seeds. When writing the name of a cultivar, the cultivar name is not italicized and is

Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan' = Kwanzan Cherry

Prunus serrulata 'Fugenzo' = Fugenzo Cherry

There can be cultivars of varieties. The name would look like this: Cornus florida var. rubra 'Cherokee Chief'. Some cultivars have desirable traits that cannot be passed on to offspring through a seed. These are called **forma**. The only way for these types of plants to reproduce is to have humans grow new trees from cuttings. An example on

Prunus spachiana f. ascendans = Usuzumi Cherry
Crosses between two different species are called 'hybrids.' Hybrids do occur in nature among animals, but are much more common with plants. So much so, that many of the plants that you find in your yard are hybrids. Though humans have deliberately produced many of these, some have been found in nature and then purposely propagated by humans. One example is our most prominent cherry tree.

Prunus x yedoensis 'Akebono' = Akebono Cherry Prunus x yedoensis 'Afterglow' = Afterglow Cherry



Poems hanging from a blossoming Japanese Cherry Tree

# \*\*\* Kids Corner! \*\*\*

We highly recommend taking the easy to use Metrorail system as a

means of getting around town. The station most convenient to the

cherry trees is the Smithsonian stop at 12th Street and Independence

We want you to have a fun and safe cherry blossom viewing experi-

ence. Use caution when visiting the park, especially crossing the

Wearing blossoms in your hair . . .

May seem fun and harmless, but these

activities hurt the trees and are prohibited

The National Cherry Blossom Festival® celebrates the gift of the cherry

blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the citizens of the

United States and Japan. The Festival is an annual two-week, city-wide

event featuring over 150 international cultural performances, sporting

events, arts & crafts demonstrations and other special events.

Gnawing down trees for dam

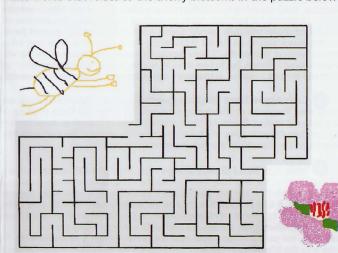
streets. Please use crosswalks.

Picking the flowers . .

construction . .

All living things are connected! Plants and animals need food just like we do in order to survive. The bright colorful flowers of the cherry trees attract people to them and also play a big role in nature! Flowers need pollen from other flowers to make seeds. How do they get that pollen? From insects such as bees who carry the pollen from one flower to another. The bees love pollen because it is their food! What would happen if there were no flowers? Would there be any bees?

Help the bee find its way to the cherry blossom! Then see if you can find words that relate to the cherry blossoms in the puzzle below!



Unscramble the shaded letters to find a word that describes the blossoms.\*\* 

a location.		_		_	_	_		_					_	_	
SAKURA	Х	R	A	N	G	E	R	G	0	В	U	J	F	K	J
CHERRY	М	0	1	Р	W	K	Н	N	L	S	Е	0	K	Α	S
BLOSSOMS	Т	R	Е	Е	R	1	Y	R	R	Е	Н	С	J	G	В
PAGODA	R	G	U	Т	N	Z	Q	1	Q	U	G	1	М	U	U
FRIENDSHIP LANTERN	N	D	F	1	K	D	G	0	Υ	F	N	Υ	N	Р	D
GIFTS	1	K	L	Н	U	J	S	Х	Н	K	М	В	F	0	1
YOSHINO	S	Н	G	W	J	Т	Α	Н	Е	N	D	J	Е	N	N
JAPAN	Α	S	U	Е	K	V	K	В	1	1	K	Α	Υ	S	N
WHITE	В	1	G	V	Е	В	U	N	Α	Р	Α	J	S	R	J
BEAVER	L	0	В	М	Υ	S	R	U	Н	G	В	В	Е	М	L
RANGER BUD	Α	U	Т	Υ	Т	D	Α	J	G	L	K	Т	U	L	P
TREE	D	E	С	F	1	Р	0	U	0	K	N	В	В	Н	L
TIDAL BASIN	1	]	ī	G	D	5	D	J	K	A	F	U	1	W	C
										100	Acres de la constitución de la c				

P A G O D A L Y P O N M H J F

DAL BASIN

Prunus x yedoensis = Yoshino Cherry CHERRY The 'x' between the genus and species indicates that this is a hybrid. It was first noticed in Tokyo in 1872. We do have cultivars of hybrids. LOSSOMS PAGODA RIENDSHIP

S M O S S O L B E A V E R G T

## 1909 1906 USDA official Dr. David support from First Lady Taft and rchild imports and plant 100 Japanese Cherry trees offer to donate the trees. Plan gets attention of visiting Japanes dignitary Dr. Jokichi Takamine wh MD to test their hardiness. offers donation of 2,000 trees in the name of Tokyo. She accepts, amd the international gift giving **Blossoming Gifts** For nearly a century, the beauty of the blossoming cherry trees has inchanted visitors on the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Gifts from Japan in 1912, the 3,020 cherry trees arrived in the United States as living symbols of friendship between the two nations. In a formal ceremony, First Lady Helen Harron Taft and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted the first cherry trees along the Tidal Basin. Washington, D.C. residents quickly embraced the trees and, by 1935, established the Cherry Blossom Festival as an annual The cherry trees are a particularly fitting element of the National Mall and Memorial Parks. Just as monuments and memorials represent universal ideals of unity, equality, and freedom, the cherry trees also epresent universal ideas. They serve as symbols of the beauty and brevity of life, reminding us of the inherent equality of our shared mortality. This fundamental concept crosses all borders and represents a common truth among humankind. The deep appreciation felt for the cherry blossoms testifies to this universality of the human mind and

# **Ancient Traditions**

The significance of the cherry blossoms begins prior to the 8th century prayers under the blossoms. The cherry blossoms, called sakura, appear in paintings and poetry more often than any other image aside from refers almost exclusively to viewing cherry blossoms. According to the temple and the blossoms generally compliment one another. Thus, the



Yo no naka wa

Mikka minu ma ni

I saw the blossoms The city takes a deep breath Must they go away?

Long ago there lived a beautiful girl named Masa. In the spring,

Kurondo. Masa spurned the villain Kurondo and fell in love with

Makito. Kurondo, though, would not accept Masa's decision. He

forced Masa's father to order her to give Makito drugged wine.

when the cherry blossoms were in bloom, two knights fell in love with

her. One knight was the gallant Makito; the other was the villainous

discovered that Masa's father had an alliance with rebel leaders. The

evil Kurondo used this information to blackmail Masa's father. Kurondo

Kurondo would then slay the incapacitated Makito and take Masa for

his wife. Masa could not bring herself to betray her beloved Makito, but neither could she disobey her father. Masa devised a plan of her

own to save Makito and preserve her family honor. Masa disguised

herself as Makito then went to the arranged ambush site beneath a

fell asleep. Kurondo, finding what appeared to be a helpless Makito,

drew his sword and put the unconscious Masa to death. The following

year, the cherry tree beneath which Masa had sacrificed herself, and

which had only borne white flowers in the past, bloomed with pink

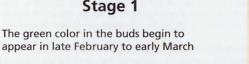
usually expresses a moment, sensation or impression of a particula aspect of nature. A haiku poet (haijin) writes about a moment in time and a brief experience. Cherry blossom viewing traditionally

ncludes writing poetry. It is no wonder the short lived cherry plossoms appear in countless haiku! These poems consist of three ines. The first and third lines consist of 5 syllables. The second line

has 7. There are also two, more modern ways to compose haiku. One is by using a metric system instead of syllables and the other is

by reading the entire haiku in one breath. Adhering to the 5-7-5 pattern, see if you can compose a haiku about your experience in th

ossoming cherry tree. There she drank the drugged wine herself and



Stage 2

When the florets become visible in March, there is an average 16-21 days to peak bloom

"When will the cherry trees bloom?"

Unfortunately, this is not the easiest question to answer. It is nearly

impossible to give an accurate forecast more than 10 days before the

bloom. The Peak Bloom Date is when 70 percent of the blossoms of the

depending on weather conditions, which has resulted in blooms as early

Festival dates are set based on the average date of blooming (April 4).

The Blooming Period starts several days before the Peak Bloom Date

and can last as long as 14 days; however, frost or high temperatures

Horticulturists must closely monitor the 5 stages of bud development.

combined with wind and/or rain can shorten this period.

For the latest update visit: www.nps.gov/cherry.

In order to make any kind of prediction, National Park Service

peak bloom. It is no wonder that given the brevity of the blossoms,

people want to catch them at the height of their beauty, or peak

Yoshino Cherry trees are open. This date varies from year to year,

as March 15 (1990) and as late as April 18 (1958). Cherry Blossom



Stage 3

The extension of the florets indicates an average of 12-17 days to peak bloom



# Stage 4

Peduncle elongation, the lengthening of flower's stalk, is frost critical. This stage indicates an average 6-10 days to peak bloom



Stage 5

When the puffy white flowers begin to emerge, there is an average of 4-6 days to peak bloom









### **Memorial Loop**

Experience the Japanese cherry trees in their monumental setting while visiting some of our national icons. This 2.7 mile loop takes you through some of the park's memorials such as the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial, as well as some of the lesser-known places such as Constitution Gardens where the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial is located. See how the landscaping of the memorials and Japanese cherry trees complement one another and inspire people from all over the world.

World War II Memorial - Dedicated in 2004, this complex memorial recalls the terrible sacrifices of our nation, while at the same time celebrating the accomplishments of the WWII generation. Indicating this double purpose, note the contrast between the still water in front of the wall of stars, and the dancing water in the central fountain. The columns represent the people of the nation who all contributed and sacrificed in this effort. The wall of stars honors those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in this conflict. Although Americans on the home front and those in uniform are both remembered here, the arrangement of the states pays special tribute to the veterans. The states are arranged in the order in which they entered the union, but the arrangement alternates back and forth across the wall of stars. Thus, the stars are further defined as having a special and central importance. More detailed information is available from the brochure at the contact station.

**2** Tidal Basin— Created in the 1890s with the development of East and West Potomac parks, the Tidal Basin is the ideal locatiom to view both the memorials and the flowering cherry trees. Both are best appreciated next to reflective bodies of water, where the delicate blossoms compliment the grand architecture of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Washington Monument, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. From the top of the stairs leading into the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial you can appreciate the picturesque panorama of this majestic Washington Monument framed by the flowering cherry trees.

Jusuzumi Cherry Trees (*Prunus spachiana f. ascendens*) – Planted in 1999, these noteworthy trees were a gift from the people of Neo Mura Village in central Japan. This generous expression of goodwill came with a desire to expand cultural exchanges between Japan and the United States. These trees with unusual flowers have a unique history. Legend has it that the 26th Emperor Keitai Tenno planted the "Usuzumi-No-Sakura" (meaning "cherry tree of gray blossoms") tree in Neo Mura Village 1500 years ago to commemorate the eighteen happy years he dwelled there. Japan declared this oldest living flowering cherry tree in the world a National Treasure in 1922. It is from the cuttings of this tree that the Usuzumi trees in the park were grown, giving them an interesting lineage. They can reach up to 40 feet in height with single flowers that change from pink to white and then gray. Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees.

4 Fugenzo Cherry Trees (*Prunus serrulata* 'Fugenzo') – Meaning Goddess on a White Elephant, the Fugenzo cherry is one of the oldest cultivated cherry trees in Japan. It is one of the first Japanese cherry trees to be grown in European gardens. They boast pink double flowers with curved petal tips that resemble an elephant's nose. The Fugenzo cherries have crimson buds with sharply toothed sepals that curl characteristically. These trees are among the last to bloom. Look for the numbered sign to identify the

5 Japanese Weeping Cherry Trees (*Prunus subhirtella* var. *pendula*) - Blooming about a week before the ever-present Yoshinos, the weeping cherry trees are easy to spot with their graceful cascades of pink flowers. They can be 20 to 40 feet in height with a variety of flowers of differing forms and colors. One variety, the Autumn Flowering Cherry, blooms sporadically during warm periods in the fall, fully flowering the following spring. There are over 90 Weeping cherries and more than 20 Autumn Flowering cherry trees in Potomac Park. Look for the numbered sign to identify

**6 Akebono Cherry Trees** (*Prunus x yedoensis 'Akebono'*) – This is a cultivated variety of the Yoshino cherry. Developed in San Jose, California in the early part of the 20th century, this is a pinker version of the Yoshino. How can there be an improvement to the pinkness of a white flower? Yoshino blossoms change color during their lifespan – pink buds open and fade to white petals, then turn pink again as they begin to wilt. The Akebono displays pinker colorations during these transitions. Because the sky may display pink in the morning, and again pink at sunset, this variety was named Akebono, which means 'daybreak.' Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees.

John Ericsson Memorial - Sculpted by J.E. Fraser, this seated figure of John Ericsson honors him as the inventor who perfected the use of the screw propeller and designer of the ironclad USS Monitor. This was carried from pink granite. It is the largest single block of granite outside of Egypt. Erected by the United States Government and private subscription by Americans of Scandinavian descent, the memorial was dedicated May 29, 1926.

**8** Korean War Veterans Memorial - While the Korean War Veterans Memorial honors the men and women who risked and sacrificed their lives for this country, it also addresses the central theme of unity that pervades the entire park. The Korean War was the first major test of the United Nations. This memorial includes the names of the 22 countries that constituted the United Nations team that fought to repel the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces in this war. President Bill Clinton and President Kim Young Sam of South Korea, dedicated this memorial on July 27th, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the armistice that ended the fighting in 1953. Stop by the kiosk for a brochure containing more information.

States, is known as "The Great Emancipator" and "Savior of the Union." It is here that people can reflect on the past and learn about this great man. Constructed between 1914 and 1922, the Lincoln Memorial tells the story of the president's two terms in office and his struggle to lead a country through Civil War by using symbolism, art and words from two of his famous speeches, which are etched into the memorial walls. In the center of the Parthenon-styled chamber sits a 19-foot tall statue of a war-torn Lincoln, exhibiting his compassion as well as his strength and determination. The geology of the memorial also acts as a symbol of Lincoln's relentless fight to preserve the Union by bringing together granite, marble and limestone from all over the United States. The Lincoln Memorial, designed by Henry Bacon, has remained one of the more popular places on the National Mall for expressions of freedom. See a Park Ranger and request a brochure for more information. restrooms - refreshments - bookstore - souvenirs

10 Vietnam Veterans Memorial - One of the more visited memorials in the park, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors those men and women who served in the Vietnam War from 1959 through 1975. People come from all over the world to view the black granite wall that holds over 58,000 names of those killed and missing in action. "The Wall that Heals," as is it often called, was dedicated on November 13, 1982, and serves as a place for remembrance, reflection, grieving and closure. Here, people are able o see and touch the names of loved ones, family and friends who never made it home. There are other components to the memorial as well. The Three Servicemen Statue depicts three young men in uniform looking towards the Wall in a display of strength and vulnerability. Next to them stands a flag with a base containing the emblems of the five services. The Vietnam Women's Memorial, dedicated in 1993 honors the women of the U.S. Armed Forces who took part in the war. Eight yellowwood trees surrounding the statue serve as a living tribute to the eight women killed in action while in Vietnam. In addition, the In Memory Plague, dedicated in 2004, remembers and honors those who served in Vietnam and later died from causes related to the war. See a Park Ranger for assistance and obtain a brochure for more detailed information.

Constitution Gardens / The 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial – This is a peaceful oasis in the midst of a bustling city and boasts many treasures for you to enjoy. You can sit and watch a variety of waterfowl such as Canada Geese or Great Blue Herons come and go from the lake. Dedicated in May of 1976, the 50-acre Constitution Gardens serves as an American Revolution Bicentennial tribute. As you make your way around the water, cross over to the island that pays tribute to the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Here you will find a fascinating memorial made up of a semicircle of granite blocks. Each block contains the signature of one of the 56 state representatives, carved to look identical to the pen and ink signatures on the bottom of the 1776 Declaration of Independence. The granite blocks are from the Cold Springs Quarry in Minnesota, which contains some of the oldest rock in the world.

Lock Keeper's House - Why is there a lock keeper's house so far from a canal? Constitution Avenue started out as Tiber Creek. The creek was converted into the Washington City Canal which opened in 1815, connecting Georgetown with the Anacostia River. However, the Potomac River already connected Georgetown and the Anacostia, and the Washington Canal proved a financial flop that served more as an open sewer than as a shipping canal. In 1871, parts of the canal were covered over or filled in. Used in the early 20th century as a watchman's office by the Army Corp of Engineers, this lock house would seem to be the only remaining remnant of the canal. However, Tiber creek does still flow, now through artificial conduits, beneath Constitution Avenue and out to the Potomac River.

13 Yoshino Cherry Trees (*Prunus x yedoensis*) – The Yoshino cherry is the predominant species in the park. During Peak Bloom, the Tidal Basin appears to be lined by fluffy clouds due to the profusion of the Yoshinos' single white blossoms. This variety can also be found in East Potomac Park and on the Washington Monument grounds. In all, there are well over 2500 Yoshino cherries. These trees, known as Somei-Yoshino in Japan, are hybrids of unknown origin that were first discovered in Tokyo in 1872. As a constant living reminder of Japanese-American friendship, the Yoshino cherry trees continue to amaze the thousands of people who make the pilgrimage each spring to see them. Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees.

Washington Monument – The Monument pays tribute to George Washington and his many achievements, including building and commanding the Continental Army and serving as the first president under our current constitutional system. With its monolithic simplicity, the Monument also provides an excellent artistic representation of unity. One of George Washington's accomplishments was bringing together what were essentially thirteen separate countries to form a single nation. Arguably, Washington was the only man so universally trusted and respected by the people that all the States would accept him as president. Thus, the Washington Monument honors the man as well as the unity of the American people. Brochures are available at the entrance and at Survey Lodge Ranger Station, located on the nument grounds along Independence Ave. Visiting the top of the Washington Monument requires tickets. A limited number of free, timed tickets are available at the Washington Monument Lodge on 15th Street, starting at 8:30am. One person can obtain up to 6 tickets.

### Tree list

Akebono (Prunus x yedoensis 'Akebono') – single, pale pink flowers
Afterglow (Prunus x yedoensis 'Afterglow') – single, pink flowers
Kwanzan (Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan') – double, white flowers
Fugenzo (Prunus serrulata 'Fugenzo') – double, rose pink flowers
Shirofugen (Prunus serrulata 'Shirofugen') – double, white flowers
Weeping Japanese (Prunus subhirtella var. pendula) – single or double\*, white
to dark pink flowers
Autumn Flowering (Prunus subhirtella var. autumnalis) - single or double\*,
white to dark pink flowers
Takesimensis (Prunus takesimensis) – single or double, white flowers
Sargent (Prunus sargentii) – single, deep pink flowers

single = 5 petals; Double = multiples of 5 petal

### River Walk 🗞

This 4.1 mile loop is well worth the trip! It is also a great opportunity to see many different species of cherry trees unlike anywhere else in the park. Stroll among the blossoms while taking in spectacular views of the Potomac River, Anacostia River, and the Washington Channel. Please watch your step as the path may contain some uneven payement.

Okame Cherry Tree (*Prunus x okame*) – Follow the arrow on the post to find the only Okame cherry tree in the park. Okame is another name for the Shinto Goddess of mirth and good fortune. Being one of the earliest of the flowering cherries to bloom, the Okame welcomes the spring with its carmine-pink petals, rose red buds and reddish flower stalks. Its multitude of single pink blooms makes for a brilliant scene in the morning sunrise. The reddish stamens persist for a week after flowering and the floral effect lasts for two to three weeks. Look at the numbered sign to identify the

Survivors of the Burn – A little known fact about the Japanese cherry e donation of 1912 is that it was not the first. In August of 1909, Tokyo officials donated two thousand cherry trees to their sister city of Washington, D.C. The trees arrived in the Nation's Capital in 1910 but upon inspection and to everyone's dismay, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found the trees to be infested with crown gall, root gall, two kinds of scale, a potentially new species of borer and other possibly harmful insects. The trees were immediately burned as recommended. But did any of these trees survive? Look out onto the Golf Course at the gnarled grove of **cherry trees.** Recently, it has been speculated that these trees could be part of the original 1910 donation. First, they appear to be approximately as old as the 1912 shipment yet none of those trees were planted in this area. Second, the tops of the trees have been pruned in an unusual way that would be consistent with the USDA's attempt to salvage the 1910 trees before realizing the extent of the infestations. Third, the USDA used this area for research. Finally, there was a test planting of some of the 1910 trees and documents have revealed that not all of the 1910 trees were burned. Combining all of this evidence makes the case for this grove of cherry trees being the oldest in the park.

Eastern Cottonwood Tree (*Populus deltoides*) – This indigenous species is believed to be one of the few trees on Hains Point to have taken root naturally (volunteered); the other trees having been planted. Cottonwood trees are flood tolerant making them ideally suited for growth near the river. These fast growing trees are useful for timber production. Due to the wood's flexibility, it is used in the manufacture of snowboard cores. In late spring, female cottonwoods produce catkins which ripen and release many small seeds. Each seed is attached to a fluffy material resembling cotton, hence the tree's name. This cotton-like material allows the small seeds to be dispersed by the wind.

Fort Lesley J. McNair – George Washington established this fort, then called Washington Barracks, in 1791 for defense of the capital. Ironically, the British captured the fort during the War of 1812. President Abraham Lincoln test fired the first machine gun in history here in 1861. Four years later, the fort housed the first federal penitentiary where four co-conspirators connected with President Lincoln's assassination were tried and hanged. Major Walter Reed, camp surgeon 1881-1882, found the area's swampy composition useful for his research establishing the link between mosquitoes and the transmission of malaria. Renamed Fort Lesley J. McNair in 1948, it is still used for military housing. Educational programs for civilian and military personnel are offered at the National War College, the prominent building you see directly across the river from the trail marker. Some of the cherry trees Japan gifted to the United States were re-planted on the grounds of Fort McNair in 1922.

Takesimensis Cherry Trees (*Prunus takesimensis*) – This area floods frequently, making it too moist for many tree species to flourish, including the cherry trees. Takesimensis have been planted here because they are reported to be more moisture tolerant than other cherry species. Notice the prevalence of other moisture tolerant trees around Hains Point, such as River Birch and Cypress. Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees.

Bald Cypress, aka Swamp Cypress (Taxodium distichum) – Is a Bald Cypress tree an evergreen tree or deciduous tree? If you answered deciduous you are correct! Evergreen trees retain their leaves all year while deciduous trees shed their leaves annually, typically in the winter. Most people think all trees with needles are evergreens, but this is not the case. The Bald Cypress' yellow-green, feathery leaves are actually deciduous needles which turn reddish-brown before shedding in the fall, a rare characteristic for coniferous (cone bearing) trees. Conversely, broad-leafed Holly trees are evergreens, keeping their leaves through the winter. Indigenous to the southeastern United States, the Bald Cypress is flood tolerant and may live in excess of 1,000 years, reaching heights over 100 feet.

Candy Cane Tree (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan') — Called the "candy cane tree" for obvious reasons, we do not know why this tree has taken this particular shape, other than age, probable trauma, and random chance. However, the only living part of a tree's trunk is the thin layer of tissue just beneath the bark. The interior of a tree trunk consists of the now dead remnants of previous years' growth; hence, the age of a tree can be determined by counting the rings. As compromised as this tree appears, it may yet live for many years because there is a continuous strip of outer material from roots to branches.

Kwanzan Cherry Trees (Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan') – Named after a mountain in Japan, the Kwanzan cherries are admired for their heavy hanging clusters of clear pink double blossoms. There are 481 Kwanzan trees in the park, second to the predominant Yoshinos. These are easier to identify because they bloom two weeks after the Yoshinos and they are taller with a dark reddish-brown bark. Not only are they the showiest of the bunch but unlike the other trees, their leaves begin to grow while the tree is still in bloom. Look at the numbered post to identify the Kwanzan Cherry tree. Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees.

Japanese Weeping Cherry Trees (*Prunus subhirtella* var. *Pendula*) - Blooming about a week before the ever-present Yoshinos, the weeping cherry trees are easy to spot with their graceful cascades of pink flowers. They can be 20 to 40 feet in height with a variety of flowers of differing forms and colors. One variety, the Autumn Flowering Cherry, blooms sporadically during warm periods in the fall, fully flowering the following spring. There are over 90 Weeping cherries and more than 20 Autumn Flowering cherry trees in Potomac Park. Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees

Red Buckeye (Aesculus pavia) – This tree, indigenous to the southeastern United States, grows ten to twenty feet in height and produces groupings of vibrant red flowers during the spring. Pollinators, including hummingbirds, are attracted to the flowers and may be seen feeding during bloom. However, the rest of the plant, including the seeds and leaves, tend not to be eaten by wildlife because they are highly toxic. Native Americans took advantage of Red Buckeye trees by placing their seeds and mashed branches in water to sedate fish thereby creating easier catches. These Buckeyes were planted here because the street had already been named Buckeye Drive.

Cuban Friendship Urn – Also called the Maine Memorial. This stone originally stood in Havana, Cuba as a memorial to the 266 crewmen who died in 1898 when the USS Maine exploded and sank in that city's harbor. The disaster sparked the Spanish-American War, during which the U.S. liberated Cuba from Spain. In appreciation of American assistance, the Cuban government erected a memorial, which was toppled by a hurricane in 1926. This urn was carved from a fragment of that memorial, re-dubbed the Cuban Friendship Urn, and sent to reside in front of the Cuban embassy in Washington, D.C. When the relationship between the two nations deteriorated, the urn was removed to a warehouse where it languished for several decades. Recently "discovered" and placed in the park, almost under a bridge, it has earned the description "most obscure memorial."

(mountain cherry), this species is one of the most cold-resistant of the native Asian cherry trees. Perhaps because this area is not as cold as its mountain home, this species often does not bloom in this area until the tree is over 10 years old. The flowers often vary in color size and petal shape. Look for the numbered sign to identify the trees.

Saucer Magnolia (Magnolia × soulangeana) – As the 'x' in the scientific name indicates this tree is a hybrid cross between two species (see - What's in a Name). It was developed in 1820 by Étienne Soulange-Bodin (1774–1846), a retired cavalry officer in Napoleon's army, by crossing Magnolia denudata with M. Illiflora. Plant breeders have continued to develop this hybrid in many countries with over one hundred named varieties now known. Magnolias are among the oldest flowering plants, dating back approximately 100 million years. These trees developed flowers prior to the appearance of bees and depended on beetles for pollination. Thus, magnolias have very tough flowers capable of supporting heavy bodied beetles landing and walking on them.

George Mason Memorial – Dedicated in 2002, the modest size of this memorial belies the enormity of George Mason's influence on both national and international political thought. As the author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776), Mason created the first constitutional protection of individual rights. The Declaration of Independence, United States Bill of Rights, France's Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, and the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Rights all drew inspiration from Mason's writings. Notice the similarity between Mason's words, quoted here, and Jefferson's words from the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."





The Greater Washington National Parks Fund strengthens connections among Washington-area residents and visitors and the hundreds of National Park Service sites in the region by raising awareness, supporting programs and services, and inspiring the protection of these special places. www.gwnpf.org