



Cincinnati Park Board

MEDIA RELEASE & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2009
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WHAT: Dedication Ceremony of Sakura Cherry Tree Grove in Ault Park

On Saturday, April 11, 2009 a public dedication ceremony will be held from 2:00-2:30 p.m. to commemorate the Cherry Tree Planting project. The Cincinnati Park Board and the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati (JASGC) will dedicate the grove of 151 Somei Yoshino cherry blossom (*sakura*) trees planted in Ault Park as a gift to the community. The sakura blossom is a symbol of good fortune, love, peace, and renewal.

WHEN: Saturday, April 11 at 2:00 p.m.

(Photo Op - The cherry blossom trees at Ault Park are currently in bloom.)

WHERE: Ault Park, 5020 Observatory Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45208

MORE ABOUT THE CHERRY TREE GROVE:

This past year, the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati (JASGC) teamed up with Cincinnati Park Board to create the Cherry Tree Planting Project. Initially, the projected goal was to plant 100 Somei Yoshino cherry blossom (*sakura*) trees in Ault Park. However, thanks to the project's overwhelming popularity with JASGC members and the Greater Cincinnati community, 151 cherry trees took root in Ault Park. The dedication ceremony will include unveiling a commemorative panel engraved with the names of the tree donors and their respective tree numbers and a numbered map of the cherry tree grove.

A vital part of commemorating the Japan America Society's 20th Anniversary, the Cherry Tree Planting Project serves as a symbolic "Thank You" to the City and Greater Cincinnati for embracing the JASGC the last two decades. The project is also an opportunity for people to memorialize events, individuals, and accomplishments in their own lives, while giving something back to their community. Several of the trees were purchased by Japanese rotational employees who have since returned to Japan, who wanted to pay tribute to their experiences in Greater Cincinnati.

The *sakura* blossom is Japan's national flower, and the Somei Yoshino tree is the most popular kind of cherry blossom tree in Japan. Cherry blossoms are symbols of good fortune, love, peace, and renewal. In springtime, *Hanami* or "flower viewing" festivals are held all over Japan at castles, parks, shrines, and school yards.

ABOUT THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI



The Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati (JASGC) is a non-profit organization created to promote a better understanding and cultural awareness between the people of Japan and the people of Greater Cincinnati. Since 1988, the Society has offered a wide variety of business, cultural, and educational programming to individuals and companies throughout the Greater Cincinnati Region. For more information on the JASGC, please visit www.jasgc.org. **CONTACT:** Kerry Bogner, Program Manager, JASGC, 513-579-3114, or kbogner@gccc.com

ABOUT CINCINNATI PARKS

The cherry blossom tree grove is a welcome addition to Ault Park's 224 acres of lawns and woods. Other attractions include picnic facilities, nature trails, children play sets, a splendid pavilion and over looks above the Ohio River. Ault is one of Southwest Ohio's premiere parks and hosts community events such as summer dances and the neighborhood's annual July 4th celebration. The park provides a beautiful backdrop, making the Ault Park pavilion very popular for weddings and private parties. (Call 351-4777 for reservations.)



Park properties constitute over 5,000 acres, approximately 10% of the City's total land area. Parklands consist of 5 regional parks, 70 neighborhood parks, 34 natural preserves, 5 neighborhood nature centers, 52 playgrounds, 5 parkways, 18 scenic overlooks, over 500 floral beds, 65 miles of hiking & bridle trails, wheelchair accessible paths, public art work and park architecture, and over 80,000 street trees. For more information, call the Cincinnati Parks Visitor Center (513) 352-4080 or visit www.cincinnatiiparks.com

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