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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UPDATES PREDICTION FOR 2016 CHERRY BLOSSOM PEAK BLOOM TO MARCH 18-23

Washington, DC [March 8, 2016] – The National Park Service (NPS) today updated its prediction for the peak bloom dates for the blossoming of the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. Based on bud development and expected temperatures, the NPS is now predicting that the trees will be at peak bloom March 18-23. The National Cherry Blossom Festival is held from March 20-April 17.

The new predicted peak bloom dates coincide with the start of the National Cherry Blossom Festival's four weeks of events. The Festival kicks off with the Pink Tie Party on March 18 and concludes with a spectacular finale weekend on April 16, including the nationally syndicated National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® presented by Events DC.

"We are embracing the early arrival of the blossoms and look forward to over four weeks of amazing events," said Diana Mayhew, President of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. "We look forward to bringing on the blossoms and showcasing pink and petals throughout Washington DC to more than 1.5 million attendees."

In response to the earlier peak bloom prediction, the ANA Performance Stage at the Tidal Basin Welcome Area, which offers free daily cultural performances, will now be open from March 19 – April 3 (it was previously scheduled from April 2-17).

For more information about the National Cherry Blossom Festival's events, visit <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org>.

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The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2016 Festival, March 20 – April 17, includes three spectacular weeks and four weekends of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information and find us on [Facebook](#) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](#) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](#) (@CherryBlossFest).