



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stumpy the Cherry Tree, Mascot of the Upcoming Credit Union Cherry Blossom Events, Slated for Removal

The popular tree, along with some 140 other cherry trees, will be removed from around the Tidal Basin this summer

March 13, 2024, Washington, DC: The National Park Service just announced that it is preparing for a [three-year, \\$113 million rehabilitation of the seawalls around the Tidal Basin](#) and along the Potomac River through West Potomac Park funded by the Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund. As part of the rehabilitation project, some 140 cherry trees, including the popular tree known as "Stumpy" to Washington, DC residents, and the new mascot of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile and 5K, will be removed.



Phil Stewart, director of the Cherry Blossom events, stated, "Like many, we are saddened to see Stumpy and approximately 140 other cherry trees slated for removal from the Tidal Basin. However, we understand the critical need for the National Park Service's construction work on the seawall as a long-term investment in keeping the trees vibrant into the future. This news makes 2024 the perfect year for us to celebrate Stumpy, as the tree will be featured on our participant shirts and finisher medals, and even make his debut as our new

mascot. We look forward to commemorating Stumpy throughout our race weekend of April 6-7 with a parade of 10 Mile and 5K runners who can say farewell to a generation of trees that have created a beautiful landscape for many years, while ensuring a safe environment for a new generation. In true Stumpy fashion, his resiliency will be showcased once again as he will live on as the Cherry Blossom 10 Mile mascot."

About Credit Union Cherry Blossom:

The Credit Union Cherry Blossom, organized by Cherry Blossom, Inc., a 501c(3) chapter of the Road Runners Club of America, is known as "The Runner's Rite of Spring®" in the Nation's Capital. The staging area for the 10 Mile is on the Washington Monument Grounds and the course passes in sight of all of the major Washington, D.C. Memorials. The 5K begins at Freedom Plaza and proceeds down Pennsylvania Ave. to the U.S. Capitol building, tracing the route of Presidential Inaugurations. The event serves as a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, a consortium of 170 premier children's hospitals across North America. About one-third of the funds raised support Washington, D.C.'s own Children's National ("Children's Hospital"). The event also funds the Road Runners Club of America's "RunPro Camp," a program to teach top recently-graduated U.S. collegiate distance runners about life as a professional runner.

Credit Union Miracle Day, Inc., a consortium of credit unions and credit union suppliers, is the title sponsor of the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile, 5K and Kids Run. Presenting sponsors include ASICS, BellSant, REI, Warner Bros. Discovery, and Wegmans; supporting sponsors include CO-OP Solutions, PSCU, TruStage, Outside+, Potomac River Running, Gatorade Endurance, Suburban Solutions, United Lifestyle Brands and The Westin Washington DC Downtown hotel.

The 10 Mile is sanctioned by [USA Track & Field](#) and the [Road Runners Club of America](#) and is a proud member of the [PRRO Circuit](#), a series of this country's classic road races with circuit stops in Washington, D.C.; Spokane, WA; Utica, NY; and Davenport, IA. The 5K was voted the Best 5K in the country by a 2023 *USA Today* poll. To learn more, visit <https://www.cherryblossom.org/>.

About Credit Union Miracle Day:

Credit Union Miracle Day is a partnership of over 100 credit unions, CUSOs and partner organizations united to sponsor the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile and 5K, promoting awareness of the credit union difference and benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals nationwide.

About America's Credit Unions:

Credit unions are financial cooperatives that provide consumers choices for financial services such as checking accounts, investments and loans of all kinds, including mortgages. Funds are federally insured, but unlike banks, there are no stockholders at credit unions. Earnings are returned to member-owners in the form of lower loan rates, higher savings rates, low or

no-fee products and services. The credit union philosophy of placing members' needs first is why more than 115 million Americans do their banking at a credit union.

About [National Cherry Blossom Festival](#):

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is one of the world's great celebrations of spring. The 2024 Festival takes place March 20 – April 14, and includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Leadership Circle Sponsors for the 2024 National Cherry Blossom Festival are Events DC, Amazon, and All Nippon Airways (ANA). Mark your calendars! Save the dates for the 2024 Festival signature events.

Visit NationalCherryBlossomFestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information. Get the latest updates via email and follow the Festival on social media! Facebook (@CherryBlossomFestival), Instagram (@CherryBlossFest), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest) and YouTube (@CherryBlossFest).

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