

# Gardens of the World, Conejo Valley

June 7, 2012 By [Lisa Osborne](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

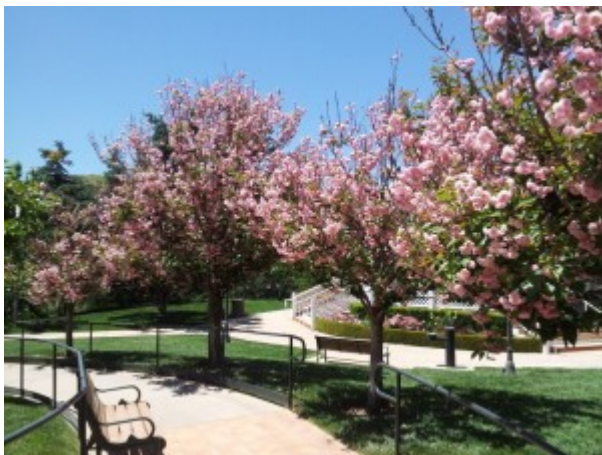
Experience a free oasis of floral & botanical beauty located off the 101 freeway in Thousand Oaks, just a 30 minute drive from the San Fernando Valley.



Gardens of the World

[Gardens of the World](#) is tucked away along the main road that connects Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks, just across from the Performing Arts Center. The goal of this beautiful place, which is free to visitors, is to ‘bring the beauty of the world to the Conejo Valley.’ But, it’s easy to miss while driving down Thousand Oaks Boulevard, so be sure to bring the address with you when you come. Gardens of the World is such a hidden treasure, that even some locals don’t even know it’s here.

A stunning, multi-level cascading fountain greets you at the entrance, and sets the tone for a peaceful experience. Stroll through English and rose gardens, then follow a winding sidewalk lined with Japanese cherry blossom trees past the bandstand to the top of the gardens. A shady picnic area overlooks the French Garden. [Here’s a map.](#)



Relax on a bench next to the pink flowers on the Japanese cherry blossom trees at Gardens of the World

There's also a Japanese pagoda and pond filled with coy fish anxious to greet visitors, perhaps in hopes that they might be treated to a snack.

The Mission Courtyard pays tribute to California's early history. There's a bronze statue of Father Junipero Serra, the priest who founded many of the area's missions, on the lawn out front of the adobe walls. Inside, you'll find murals of California's missions.

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This statue of Father Junipero Serra greets visitors outside the California Mission Courtyard.

Gardens of the World in Thousand Oaks is an enchanting place to spend an hour, or bring a picnic lunch, a friend or a good book and spend the day relaxing in nature.

Admission is free, and it's closed on Mondays and in inclement weather. Make the most of your experience here by printing this [self guided tour brochure](#).

Gardens of the World is located at 2001 E. Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362. Exit the 101 at Hampshire Road.