



Group predicts spring-like exhibit

Detroit's Department of Parks and Recreation thinks its garden exhibit in this year's Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show will be its most ambitious yet. That's saying a lot because Parks and Recreation has been a participant in the show for close to 45 years.

The Builders show will be held March 19-27 at Cobo Hall.

"It will really look, feel and smell like spring at our exhibit," said Paul Hynes, superintendent of the Forestry and Landscapes Division of the city's Parks and Rec Department.

The garden will consist of 14, 25-foot-high blue spruce trees, which reach to the ceiling of the exhibit hall.

The trees were donated by Detroit residents who found them too large for their property.

There will be over 500 azaleas, rhododendrons, tulips, hyacinths and daffodils in the garden, along with more than 200 flowering shrubs all of which have been forced to bloom early at the Parks and Recreation's greenhouses on Belle Isle.

The highlight of the garden will be a large 2,500-square-foot pond filled with

35,600 gallons of water. The pond will be 2 feet deep.

In the center of the pond will be a 20-foot-high, copper fountain, sculptured into a stylized-tree form. The fountain will have jets, which will spray water in several directions.

"It will feel like spring near our exhibit because of the constant water evaporation of the fountain. The evaporation will put water into the air, making it feel just like a cool spring breeze," Hynes added.

Three thousand feet of timber will

be cut from dead and diseased trees removed from city properties, for use in the construction of the pool retaining walls, ramps and decks. The timber will be cut at the department's saw mill on Belle Isle.

Six thousand yards of sand will be used to create a base for the landscape.

Thirty cubic yards of concrete will go into construction of the pond — that's roughly enough concrete to form the curbs and sidewalks of two very long city blocks.

Area florists put artistic talents on display

More than 200 florists belonging to the Allied Professional Florists of Detroit and the FTD wire service region 4-D will exhibit cut flower arrangements at the Builders Home Flower and Furniture Show, March 19-27 at Cobo Hall.

These arrangements represent some of the best artistic floral displays in the Metropolitan Detroit area. They are shown to create an interest in the

flower industry and to exhibit new products and exciting new floral trends.

As in past years, there will be a professional adjudication of these arrangements in a variety of trade classifications.

But new this year, will be the opportunity for visitors to the show to select their collective favorite arrangements — the "People's Choice," while at the same time making a donation to the

March of Dimes.

Here's how it works.

Show visitors can purchase \$1 ballots from the March of Dimes booth. Voters will fill out their name and arrangement number on the ballot, then drop it into one of several ballot boxes scattered throughout the exhibit area.

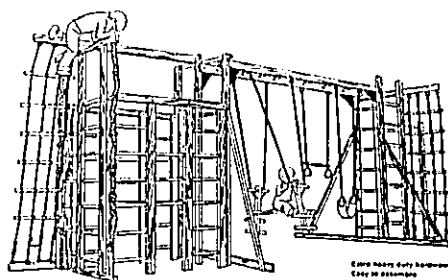
To show their appreciation, the March of Dimes will give each voter a helium filled balloon and will hold a daily random drawing for a free FTD

"Celebrate" boutique.

The winner of the "People's Choice" will be announced during special ceremonies to be held on March 24 at 2 p.m.

The florists will conduct continuous mini-seminars and demonstrations daily during the show. Times are daily 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.; and from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 19 and 26 and Sunday, March 20.

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