

## Riverwalk offers more than 'garden variety' options

**R**iverwalk Gardens at Cobo Center will be set off by some exciting gardens created by local firms. Here's a listing of what to look for on your stroll:

■ Mark J. Baldwin & Associates, Inc., Plymouth — Garden 12 featuring a natural meandering walkway garden with brick paver paths surrounded by spring flowers and gazebos.

■ Mark J. Baldwin & Associates, Inc., Plymouth — Comerica Garden featuring a formal fountain, ledge-rock retaining wall planters and a brick paver plaza area.

■ Black Forest Building Co., Mt. Clemens — Garden 2 featuring a romantic fantasy garden with a children's playhouse, a three-foot wood mermaid, spring flowers and gazebos.

■ Blue Fox Interlock, Ann Arbor — Garden featuring a back-yard setting with multilevel patios using interlocking brick pavers and modular retaining walls.

■ Grass Roots Nursery, New Boston — Garden 3 featuring a water garden, including indoor and outdoor ponds, waterfalls, fountains, water plants, fishes and turtles.

■ Michigan State University Department of Horticulture & Institute of Agricultural Technology, East Lansing — Garden 13 featuring a woodland shade garden with a five-foot Mama Bear and a 3.5-foot Baby Bear topiaries, reflecting pool, circular brick paver patios,

shade tolerant shrubs and perennials; designed and constructed by MSU students.

■ Mueller's Sunrise Nursery, Shelby Township — Garden 17 featuring a horticultural harmony garden highlighting topiary junipers, flowering trees and shrubs, a pond, a fountain and spring flowers.

■ Mueller's Sunrise Nursery, Shelby Township — Standard Federal Garden featuring a peaceful water garden displaying a pool and waterfall with flowering trees and shrubs.

■ National Landscape & Lawn care, Southfield — Garden 4 featuring a walk-through garden with brick pavers, bridges, swings, a pond and spring flowers.

■ Northwind Farms Landscaping, Inc., Utica — Garden 1 featuring a serenity of nature's magic garden with spring flowers, topiaries from Hunter Creek, flowering trees and shrubs, brick patios and walkways, arbors, ponds and fountains.

■ Northwind Farms Landscaping, Inc., Utica — National Bank of Detroit Garden featuring a formal and natural landscape garden with an arbor, a fountain, a stream, a waterfall, a bridge and flowering plants.

■ Rollin Landscaping, Inc., Farmington Hills — Garden 6.

■ Soulliere Decorative Stone, Utica —

Garden 14 featuring a viewing garden with sitting and rest areas overlooking the four fountains highlighted by a variety of brick and stone paver walkways.

■ Structural Landscapes, Dearborn/Farmington Hills — Garden 5 featuring

a custom stonework garden displaying slate, raised patios, brick paver walkways and spring flowers.

■ Superior Scape, Inc., Shelby Township — Garden 9 featuring a water garden with a waterfall, ponds, fountains, water plants and brick paver walkways.

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ects. The goal is to sell 5,000 ducks per race. Ducks will gather in one pond and flow down the river to a small chute that allows just one duck through at a time.

But, duck racing aside, how in the world do they intend to build a river in Cobo Center? About 40 people will be involved, with skills in bricklaying, irrigation and landscaping. The project involves 12,000 square feet of vinyl liner material to enclose 40,000 gallons of water. This is no small task for a project that will be completed in less than 18 hours.

About 700 cubic yards of fill sand will outline and shore the river. Three large pumps will help the water flow and circulate from one pond to another. Marc Dutton Irrigation will design and build the pumping system to move all of this water.

"If anyone is suffering from cabin fever or the winter doldrums, this will

■ 'If anyone is suffering from cabin fever or the winter doldrums, this will definitely bring them out of it.'

*Larry Wright  
landscape designer*

definitely bring them out of it," Wright said.

Plants from the gardens will be sold at 4 p.m. on the last day of the show.

The MDLA, founded in 1960, represents nearly 400 companies in southeast Michigan. Members include landscape contractors, maintenance contractors, lawn sprinkler contractors, tree care companies, lawn spray companies and many other suppliers.

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