

Home design events, sales, gardening news

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Anticipate it

"*Our World in Bloom*" will be the theme of the 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show, returning to Navy Pier March 7 to 15. Prospective exhibitors last week were given a set of guidelines calling for gardens to promote environmental consciousness and sustainable techniques such as composting, rain gardens, choosing non-invasive plants and using recycled materials. Landscape architect Scott Mehaffey, newly appointed assistant to the mayor and landscape coordinator for the city, said Chicago plans to push hard to respond to the prospect of climate change and told sponsors, "your exhibits can really help" to spread practical knowledge and to showcase the city's green accomplishments to visitors from around the world. The Chicago Park District has joined the list of exhibitors and a display of new plant introductions is planned, officials said. But Tony Abruscato, president of the show, said the most popular new feature so far is \$15 fixed-rate parking at the pier.

— *Beth Botts*