

Parking lot opens at botanic garden



Landscaping is being completed for the parking garden now open at the Queens Botanical Garden in Flushing. The fee is \$5 a car.

PHOTO BY NICOLE LEVY

by Liz Rhoades

Managing Editor

A parking garden has opened appropriately enough at the Queens Botanical Garden.

The green parking area on Crommelin Street in Flushing holds 120 cars, twice as many as the old lot, and is made up of pavers spaced so that rainwater is absorbed into the soil. Landscaping is still being done and paths are being built to connect the site to the main garden, whose front entrance is at 43-50 Main St.

Susan Lacerte, QBG executive direc-

tor, said that the parking garden opened last week, with a rate of \$5 per car. The site had been closed since last November for the makeover.

The site features a lot less concrete, with earthen berms that slope down to control erosion. Grasses and some plants were added last fall, while more seasonal flowers are being planted now.

Officials at the garden announced recently that due to budget cuts, admission fees were added in April. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for students with ID and children over 3

years old.

Flushing residents living in the 11354 and 11355 ZIP codes are allowed to purchase a community access pass for \$20 that will provide free admission through Oct. 31. From November to March, all rates will be dropped.

Lacerte is hoping that more people will become QBG members. Basic membership is \$50 and provides free admission and four parking passes.

The garden is open Tuesday through Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on holiday Mondays.