John Street Pasture, a temporary living earthwork under the Manhattan Bridge, will open to the public this Saturday. The Brooklyn Eagle got a preview of the exhibit that celebrates green space, agriculture, and the transitional nature of urban land. Photos by Rob Abruzzese.

Here's something you don't see in Brooklyn everyday - a clover field. John Street Pasture, located at 1 John Street in DUMBO, will open to the public this Saturday, but a group of reporters got a chance to preview the temporary park along with Regina Myer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Andrea Reynosa, the artist/farmer responsible for the park.

The park is currently covered in magnificent green clovers and will bloom crimson flowers over the upcoming weeks. It's a temporary design meant to celebrate green space, agriculture, and the transitional nature of urban land. It will eventually be taken down toward the end of July to make room for construction of a 42-unit condo building.

"Just to establish public use for the first time on this site from the aspect of building a park is such a wonderful milestone. That we can start our park in the northern section by the Manhattan Bridge using Andrea's vision is a wonderful collaboration," Myer said.

The fact that the soil has been donated by the park, it brings meaning and purpose and creates a new interpretation of place, Reynosa added. "In Dumbo, you're looking at the way the land is used and how it is interpreted by the community." John Street, people will remember this as the first initiative step as an art piece also as community awareness and giving it meaning that it didn't have before.

Aside from being a fantastic living art installation, John Street Pasture has a more practical application. The clovers are acting to nitrogenize the soil which will then be reclaimed and used throughout the other areas of the Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Plans for the pasture started to come together last July with Reynosa working with Smack Mellon, Alloy Development, who owns the lot, approved the project in September and by December Brooklyn Grange joined and began constructing it. Because of the especially cold winter, seeds weren't planted until March 21st, but Reynosa said that ended up being great timing as it is just blooming now less than a week before it opens to the public.

There is an irrigation system in place to water the clovers, but Reynosa said that is mostly a backup and that seasonal rain should be proficient to keep it healthy. When the project is ready to be taken down, pygmy goats will be brought in to graze.

"It speaks volumes about the sustainable farming process, especially in an urban environment where you are not exposed to clover crops," Reynosa said. "There will be a lot of educational opportunities to have children come in and witness that."