BLOCH CANCER FOUNDATION TO BUILD PARK DEDICATED TO SURVIVORS

COLUMBUS -- The R. A. Bloch Cancer Foundation has made a major gift to The Ohio State University to completely fund construction of a "Cancer Survivors Park" in the university's Chadwick Arboretum. The gift will also fund maintenance of the park in perpetuity.

The one-acre park will be located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road, just south of the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow. In addition to landscaping and benches, the park will contain three major elements: a sculpture of eight life-size figures passing through a symbolic maze of doorways toward recovery, a "positive mental attitude walk" with plaques giving hopeful messages and cancer-fighting suggestions, and an interactive computer which will contain the names of Central Ohioans who have survived cancer.

After successfully fighting lung cancer diagnosed in 1978, Richard A. Bloch, co-founder of H & R Block tax preparation service, retired from his business and, with his wife Annette, devoted himself to overseeing the projects of the foundation. A major effort of the Bloch foundation is creation of parks.
dedicated to cancer survivors in American and Canadian metropolitan areas with a population over one million.

The first park was built in 1988 in Kansas City, Mo., the Blochs' hometown. Richard Bloch visited Columbus last August and chose the site for the park here from among several in the city.

"My wife and I believe the second-greatest correctible cause of cancer mortality (smoking is No. 1) is relating death and cancer," Bloch said. "Many people have been brought up to believe that a diagnosis of cancer means automatic death. Some believe that treatments are worse than death. When they are diagnosed, they give up and do not try to fight."

The parks, with their emphasis on those who have successfully challenged cancer, are meant to demonstrate that is quite possible to overcome cancer."

Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee thanked the Blochs for making the park possible. "Through the generosity of Richard and Annette Bloch, this park will add another dimension to the cancer-fighting efforts of Ohio State. Cancer profoundly challenges us physically and spiritually. The park will help those with cancer and their loved ones to find courage, inspiration and confidence. I commend the work of the Bloch Foundation in bringing hope and comfort to so many people through the Cancer Survivors Parks."

According to Janet Oberliesen, development officer for the Chadwick Arboretum, the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza will be a significant addition to the arboretum. "The park will stand on its own but still be a part of all that the arboretum has to offer the public as a garden for inspiration, learning, study, enjoyment -- a truly restorative environment."

The park was designed by Austin architect Milosav Cekic in association with Stephen Drown and James Hiss, both associate professors of landscape architecture and principals in the area firm First Avenue Design. The sculptures, which are the same as those used in the prototype Kansas City garden, are by the late Mexican artist Victor Salmons.

Construction on the local park is expected to begin within the year.

#

Contact: Janet Oberliesen, (614) 292-4678.
RICHARD AND ANNETTE BLOCH
CANCER SURVIVORS PLAZA
Columbus, Ohio

LEGEND
1 SCULPTURE
2 ROTUNDA
3 PLAZA
4 PARK SIGN
5 BENCH
6 PLAQUE
OSU first with cancer survivors

By Asha Sedalla
Lantern staff writer

He was given 90 days to live after being diagnosed with lung cancer in 1978.

After five days of no hope, Richard A. Bloch decided to get a second opinion. That second opinion saved his life.

Through multidisciplinary treatments of surgery, chemotherapy and positive thinking, Bloch now leads a healthy life, free from cancer since May 1, 1980.

"The doctors said they (the medical treatments) would make me a lot sicker, but that they could cure me. And they did," Bloch said.

Most people trust their primary-care doctors, but these doctors may not always be aware of the latest developments in cancer treatments, Bloch said.

Bloch, the co-founder of H&R Block tax preparation, retired in 1982 to dedicate his life to helping other cancer patients overcome their disease, by funding the construction of Cancer Survivor Parks throughout the country.

Ohio State will be the first university to have a Cancer Survivor Park constructed. The park will be located on the northeast corner of the intersection at Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road, said Janet Oberliesen, development officer for the Chadwick Arboretum.

The first park was constructed in Kansas City, Mo., the hometown of the Blochs, in 1988. Other parks have been established in Omaha, Neb.; Houston, and New Orleans, Bloch said.

"People relate death and cancer immediately, if they try to fight it, they could conquer cancer," Bloch said.

The parks aren't about fund-raising or getting donations, but to demonstrate the quality of life after cancer, Bloch said.

The parks each have their own individual design, Bloch said. But each park will have three similar areas that will link them.

A bronze sculpture, created by the late Victor Salmenes, represents eight life-size people, which depicts the success of cancer patients, Bloch said. Secondly, a positive mental walk will be constructed, which consists of 14 plaques, four inspirational messages, and 10 instructional messages.

Finally, a computer will be available, which shows people the success rate of cancer survivors with different types of cancer and various up-to-date medical treatments offered in specific hospitals throughout the country, Bloch said.

"It's thrilling to see others in the park, and the annual dedication is celebrated with a rally at the opening of each park," Bloch said.

Although Bloch will be funding the entire construction of the park, the Chadwick Arboretum will maintain the park through Bloch’s endowments, Oberliesen said.

Ohio State is a good location for the park because everyone knows where Ohio State is, and the street location is very noticeable where everyone can find it, Oberliesen said.

A cancer hot line will also be implemented at the Arthur James Cancer Hospital, where cancer survivors will volunteer support to those who are dealing with cancer, Oberliesen said.

The one-acre park is still in its design phases, but hopes to be completed by July 1993, said Stephen Drown, landscape architect of First Avenue Design. He is also associate professor of landscape architecture and worked in conjunction with Miloslav Cekic, the architect who planned most of the designs for the Cancer Survivor Park.

The park will be constructed in a multi-sensory format, which will trigger the healing process, mental health stability, and promote restful and peaceful quality, Drown said.

Some of the multi-sensory information to be used includes fragrant plant material to stimulate the sense of smell, wind harps to stimulate sound, and lighting to the harps to activate the sense of sight and sound simultaneously, Drown said.

Many trees and plants will also be planted to enhance the park's atmosphere of nature and nourishment, Drown said.

"The park will hopefully increase the awareness of cancer survivors, and emphasize the importance of second opinions," Drown said.
Plaza cheers survivors of cancer

By Alyson Borgerding
Lantern staff writer

Ground was officially broken Friday for a new plaza on the OSU campus to honor cancer survivors.

The Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor’s Plaza, located on the northeast corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road, is being financed by a gift to the university from Richard Bloch, co-founder of H&R Block tax preparation.

Bloch, who was diagnosed with cancer in 1974, has dedicated his retirement to helping cancer patients overcome the disease. He has been in full remission since 1960.

“This is a park of hope, and for those who have faced cancer, this type of hope is enormously important,” said OSU president E. Gordon Gee at the ground breaking ceremony. Gee’s wife died of cancer three years ago.

Bloch chose OSU to be the first university in the nation to build a cancer survivor’s park because of OSU’s Chadwick Arboretum and the Arthur G. James Cancer Research Center.

“The two of them combined, Mr. Bloch thought, would make a tremendous opportunity for the Bloch family to make this contribution,” explained Gee. “It is a place that will give opportunity to people to contemplate, but at the same time will be seen and felt, as the spirit of the place will emanate from these green fields out throughout the community,” he said.

The plaza, which should be completed this autumn, will not only represent cancer survivors and those living with cancer, but also family and friends of victims as well.

“We’ll get some hope and benefit from what will become a living memorial and tribute, as we continue to work toward conquering cancer as a plague in our society,” said Columbus Mayor Greg Lasheftuka, whose stepmother was diagnosed with cancer last summer.

“We decided to build a place where people can come and realize that they can do something about their own condition even if it’s as serious as facing death and facing cancer,” said Milošev Cekić of Cekić Architects, designer of the OSU park, as well as the four other parks across the country.

The two most symbolic elements of his design are the proximity of the Olentangy River and a 2.5-ton granite ball fountain, that rotates when water flows underneath it. The direction of the ball’s rotation can be changed with a light touch.

The fountain is a symbol of a small force that can move mountains, Cekić said. The Olentangy River signifies change and growth.

The park will also include a bronze sculpture of eight life-size figures to represent the success of cancer survivors, a walkway lined with 14 plaques carrying inspiration, as well as instructional messages and a computer that lists names of central Ohio cancer survivors.

There are four other cancer parks across the United States. The first park was built in the Bloch’s hometown of Kansas City. The second park is in Houston, and two more are being built in Cleveland and New Orleans.

Pictured (from left to right) is Nancy Minton, President Gee, architect Milošev Cekić, Janet Pichette, Mayor Greg Lasheftuka and Dr. Bobby Moyer initiate the ground-breaking for the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor Plaza on Friday.
OSU to honor cancer survivors with Chadwick Arboretum plaza

By Jennifer L. Shook
Lantern staff writer

Ohio State’s Chadwick Arboretum will expand its 12-acre garden with the addition of a cancer survivor’s plaza and a learning and children’s garden.

Construction for the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor’s Plaza will begin Aug. 7 at the northwest corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road. The building will be dedicated at the end of October, said Janet Oberliesen, program director and development officer for the arboretum.

“The plaza was a $1 million gift to Ohio State and to Central Ohio,” Oberliesen said. The money for the park was donated by the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation.

It is one of five such parks being built around the United States and is the only one at a university, said Oberliesen. The others are in Houston, Kansas City, New Orleans and Cleveland.

The plaza will be a gazebo-like, open-air structure and will have a computer that will store the names of cancer survivors. The computer also will contain the names of Ohio State alumni, Oberliesen said.

The goal is “to let others know that individuals with particular cancers have survived,” Oberliesen said.

Additions are made each year to the arboretum, which was established in 1980, said Mary Maloney, volunteer coordinator and education director for the arboretum.

A learning and children’s garden is the newest project and is in the development stages, Maloney said.

The garden, which will be built in front of Howlett Hall, will be funded by the Columbus Foundation and from private contributions, Oberliesen said.

“This is a project in progress,” Oberliesen said. Teacher leaders from the Columbus school system will contribute to the garden project.

The arboretum is open seven days a week year-round, from dawn until dusk, said Richmond Pearson, a horticulturist for the arboretum.

The tours are self-guided or conducted by volunteers, Pearson said.

The arboretum also is used as a learning lab for plant identification by OSU and Columbus State students, Pearson said.
Cancer survivors' park closer to completion

By Kathryn Szynal
Lantern staff writer

The arrival of a 1.5 ton granite sphere this week highlighted efforts to complete the first phase of the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors' Plaza, a park built to honor cancer survivors.

The one-acre park, just south of the Fawcett Center, is at the corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road. It is part of an expansion plan by Ohio State's Chadwick Arboretum that will enhance one of OSU's major gateways to the university.

The sphere is one of a series of a fountain designed and manufactured in Germany. It will be the focal point of the park, said Brian Rowley, project engineer with Physical Facilities.

The smooth granite sphere, which is ground and polished, will sit atop an eight-ton, rough granite boulder receptacle, said John Lawter, landscape architect with Physical Facilities.

"Water shoots up from underneath, fills the cup with water and by hydrostatic pressure, the sphere floats," he said.

The area between the sphere and the socket that holds it is so tight that you can't slide a credit card between them, Lawter said.

The fountain is unusual although "there was a small one at Ameriflora in the sensory gardens several years ago," Lawter said.

"Everything went without a hitch," Rowley said. The sphere arrived promptly at 8 a.m. Wednesday and was crated and installed by 11 a.m.

Visitors to the park are encouraged to handle the sphere since the slightest touch of a hand-rotates it. This ties in with the theme of the park that a small force can overcome a huge weight, he said.

An open-air roof will cover the structure that houses the fountain, inspirational plaques and an interactive computer with the names of cancer survivors, Rowley said.

Survivors will be listed on the computer by name and the date of their diagnosis, depending on the type of cancer. Janet Oberliesen, program director and development officer at the Chadwick Arboretum said they are working with the Franklin County unit of the American Cancer Society who forwards the names to them.

Anyone interested in adding a name can call the unit. They hope to start with 1,000 names, she said.

The names on the computer are received from the survivors themselves or from loved-ones, Oberliesen said. The only criterion for selection is that the individual be in remission for five years, she said.

Walkways continue from the fountain toward Lane Avenue where a sculpture field displays seven, hollow bronze figures that appear to be walking through a spiral, Lawter said.

"The idea behind this is to give cancer patients some hope, to move forward and to fight the cancer," he said.

"Some figures are holding hands. Each statue will be lighted," Rowley said.

About 40 ash, dogwood and oak}

A crane lowers the base of the fountain that will be the focal point of the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor's Plaza trees, which were provided by volunteer and donations, will be planted this week, Lawter said.

Steve Sausman, project manager with Gutknecht Construction, the company building the park, said he "still anticipates a December 1995 completion date."

This is not the first cancer plaza to be built by the Blochs, Lawter said. There are four others in Houston, Kansas City, New Orleans and one under construction in Cleveland.

Richard Bloch, co-founder of H&R Block, a cancer survivor himself, hopes to develop 50 survivor parks in cities of a million people or more throughout the United States and Canada, Oberliesen said.

Oberliesen said she accompanied Bloch in 1991 when he selected the spot along the river that he thought was the most beautiful and highly visible.

"The Blochs have donated $1 million for the park and the remaining $317,805 will be paid by the university."

"This is a community project, it's for everybody," Oberliesen said.

The park will be dedicated on May 17, Oberliesen said. Mr. Bloch is expected to attend.
Bundled up

A statue at OSU's soon-to-be-dedicated Chadwick Arboretum pokes its heads into the sun Wednesday.
By Jennifer Yance
Lantern Staff Writer

A new park at Ohio State provides a refuge for cancer survivors.

The Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor's Plaza, located at the northeastern corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road, is set to be dedicated May 23 as a four-acre addition to the OSU Chadwick Arboretum, said Janet Oberliesen, program director for the arboretum.

The park has been established from a $1 million gift made by cancer survivor Richard Bloch, of H&R Block, and his wife Annette, Oberliesen said.

"The gift from the Blochs has been used to pay for construction and maintenance of a park that will spread the news through the community that cancer is a curable disease," Oberliesen said.

These days, everyone knows someone who has been affected by cancer, or they question whether they will be next to get the disease, said Mary Maloney, education and volunteer coordinator.

"A person who has been recently diagnosed with cancer can go there and find hope and encouragement," Maloney said.

One of the most unique things about the park is the database system that contains the names of people who have survived many forms of cancer, Maloney said.

"Just seeing a list of cancer survivors that have overcome cancer, that alone can give cancer patients the idea that they can fight it too," she said.

Survivors can have their names added to the database by contacting the Franklin County unit of the American Cancer Society, Oberliesen said.

"The area around Lane Avenue and Route 315 has been identified as one of the principle gateways to the university, so indeed the park will be at OSU's front door," Oberliesen said.

The donor had several sites to choose from both on and off campus, but when he saw this particular site by the river, he fell in love with it, she said.

Since the April 7, 1995, ground breaking, 200 volunteers, and a staff of three, have spent endless hours working in the gardens each week, Maloney said.

Photos by Muriel Harrington
Chadwick Springs Into Season

Chadwick Arboretum volunteers plant tulips at the Cancer Survivor's Plaza at the corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road.

Caitlyn Deet, daughter of a volunteer, plays in a hole while she waits for a tree to plant.
Jim Calwell, left, and Tom McLaughlin heave a tree into position.

Tree planting is heavy work for, from left, Bob Moore, Dick Toenniessetter and Bert Hendley.

Volunteer Frank Tatera takes a break to get acquainted with a statue at the Cancer Survivor's Plaza.
SURVIVORS OF CANCER can celebrate and reflect on life in the new Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza on the northeast corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road. The Plaza features an interactive computer with the names of cancer survivors. It is designed as a celebration of life and as a tribute to those individuals who have survived cancer.
CHANGE YOUR CALENDARS...
The Breakfast in the Garden scheduled for June 15, 1996 will not be held. We shall look forward to greeting you in the Arboretum gardens later in the year.

PLANT SALE SUCCESS, RAIN OR SHINE...
Volunteers and customers enjoyed sunshine and braved drenching rains to make the 1996 Spring Plant Sale a success. Planning meetings for the 1997 plant sale began May 28, 1996. Those who want to be a part of the ongoing planning may do so by calling Mary Maloney at 614/688-3479.

CANCER SURVIVORS PLAZA OFFICIALLY OPENED...
The Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza was dedicated May 23, 1996. President Gee, First Lady Janet Voinovich, Mayor Lashutka, Dr. Bob Moser, and Richard and Annette Bloch were joined by over 350 special guests, Friends, and volunteers in a joyful celebration of the gift, the creation of the Plaza, and cancer survivors. A chorus of 35 cancer survivors led by composer Eric Gnezda sang a song of his, “Blossoms of Hope” while the audience released hundreds of butterflies to mark the event. The Cancer Survivors Plaza is open to the public at all times. Cancer survivors (including OSU alumni) may register for the interactive computer by calling the Franklin County Unit of the American Cancer Society at 614/228-8466.

“TREES ARE TERRIFIC: PUTTING THEM IN THEIR PLACE”...
Registration information will soon be available for this September 15 joint symposium sponsored by the OSU Chadwick Arboretum and the American Horticultural Society. The program which is to be led by Jim Wilson features some of the best horticulturists and landscape designers in the country. First Community Bank and Schmidt Nursery Company are supporting sponsors.

For more information call the Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum at 614/688-3479.
DEDICATION

of the

RICHARD AND ANNETTE BLOCH

CANCER SURVIVORS PLAZA

of

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CHADWICK ARBORETUM

MAY 23, 1996
Musical Prelude
The Ohio State University Flute Troupe

* WELCOME
Janet Oberfoerster
Program Director and Development Officer, Chadwick Arboretum

INTRODUCTIONS
Bob Mover
Vice President for Agricultural Administration
and Executive Dean
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

REMARKS
The Honorable Greg Lashaka
Mayor of Columbus

Janet Voinovich
First Lady of Ohio

Gordon Gee
President of the University

Richard and Annette Bloch

MUSICAL INTERLUDE
"Blossoms of Hope"
Sung by Eric Gueda and the Blossoms of Hope Chorus

OFFICIAL PARK OPENING • GARLAND CUTTING
Ceremony Participants

* A reception in the park follows this ceremony
THE RICHARD AND ANNETTE BLOCH CANCER SURVIVORS PLAZA

The Cancer Survivors Plaza was designed as a celebration of life and as a tribute to those individuals who have survived cancer. It encompasses open-air structures; tree and flower plantings; an interactive computer program containing a cancer survivors' registry; and a walled area with inspirational and educational messages. The Plaza is a university and community resource, a beacon of hope directing attention to the fact that there are over eight million cancer survivors nationwide. The garden-like setting along the banks of the Olentangy River is an inspiration to all visitors, encouraging contemplation and providing a place of serenity in the center of an urban environment.

THE GIFT

The Plaza concept, construction, and maintenance endowment are a gift to The Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum and the Central Ohio community from Richard and Annette Bloch as part of their battle against cancer. On March 29, 1978, Mr. Bloch, a founder of H & B Bloch, was diagnosed in his hometown of Kansas City with terminal lung cancer and advised that he had but 90 days to live. Refusing to accept that prognosis, he resolved to do everything in his power to assist in his own cure. He sought other opinions and various treatments and cultivated a positive mental attitude. Since his cure, Mr. Bloch and his wife Annette have devoted their lives to helping cancer patients conquer the disease.

THE CHADWICK ARBORETUM

The Ohio State University Chadwick Arboretum encompasses the entire Columbus campus and showcases places of natural beauty. This new and emerging urban arboretum is an outdoor classroom, a learning laboratory, and a community resource. It is being developed through private contributions and with the active support of community volunteers. The existing and landscaped gardens under construction include:

Chadwick Arboretum North

The Gardens at Lane Avenue and Fyffe Road

The Katherine H. vanFossen Wildflower Garden
The Columbus Landscape Association Conifer Garden
The Bert and Jo Kleinmaier Perennial Garden
The Murphy Family Annual and Perennial Garden
The Ohio Chapter of International Society of Arboriculture Allee
The OSU Alumni Class of 1938 Plaist
The Ingrid Spillman Wildflower Planting
The Barbara Jean Johnson Promenade comprising the
Lane Avenue Gardens

The Prairie Plant Reserve

The University Horticulture Gardens featuring
The John Peter Minton, M.D., Ph.D., Memorial Rose Garden

The Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza

BLOSSOMS OF HOPE

Blossoms of Hope is an annual celebration of cancer survivorship sponsored by Columbus Community Hospital, Doctors Hospital, Gady Memorial Hospital, Grant Medical Center, The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, Mount Carmel Health, Park Medical Center, and Riverside Hospital. The song "Blossoms of Hope" was composed by Eric Gnezd, a Columbus singer-songwriter. Mr. Gnezd has been deeply touched by cancer for the past 16 years as several members of his family have battled the disease. In the last two years he has worked closely with cancer survivors all over the country, and so it was with wholehearted passion that he composed this song, which he recorded last spring with this chorus of cancer survivors, their family members, and friends.
CHADWICK ARBORETUM COordinating Council
Luther Waters, Jr., Chairman
Department of Horticulture and Crop Science
James Stevens
Associate Vice President for Physical Facilities
Norman Booth
Director, Landscape Architecture
Fred Miller
Director, School of Natural Resources
Janet Ohsensten
Program Director and Development Officer

RICHARD AND ANNETTE BLOCH CANCER SURVIVORS PLAZA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Arthur Kobacker
Cherie Lucks
Tom Sawyer
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Zahrae Sofia
Tamala Langberger Kaibo
Holly A. Smith, student
Mark E. Berkman, student

IN APPRECIATION
The Ohio State University is deeply grateful for the enhancements, donations, and services given to the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza by the following individuals and organizations:

Sharon and Bob Barnes - Barnes Nursery, Huron, Ohio
Sherman and Roger Blair
Lewis Bookwalter - Berryhill Nursery, Springfield, Ohio
James Brady - Sunbeam Gardens, Avon, Ohio
Chadwick Arboretum Volunteers
Brian Decker - Decker Nursery, Groveport, Ohio
Don Drew - Sundance Gardens, LaGrange, Ohio
Mark Gilson - Gilson Gardens Inc., Perry, Ohio
Bert Hendley - Hendley Company, Zanesville, Ohio
William Hendricks - Klyn Nursery, Perry, Ohio
Daniel Huggett - Columbus Turf, Columbus, Ohio
Ed Lively - Herman Lively and Son Inc., Perry, Ohio
Cherie and Jack Lucks
Jane McCoy
Mabel McDonald and Ellen Eastman
Ohio Staters Inc.
George Palet - Millcreek Gardens, Orrville, Ohio
John Riepenhoff - Riepenhoff Landscape Inc., Hilliard, Ohio
Gail Rutzel - Werner Nursery, Willoughby Hills, Ohio
Jane and William Scarff - Scarff's Nursery Inc., New Carlisle, Ohio
Gracey Sills, RN, PhD, FAAN
Bev and Ted Simon
Sphinx Student Honorary
Dan Studebaker - Studebaker Nurseries Inc., New Carlisle, Ohio
Jim Zampini - Lake County Nursery, Perry, Ohio
and
Keen Catering
OSU dedicates Cancer Survivors Plaza

By KARA DICKINSON
Suburban News Reporter

A gift from the R.A. Bloch Cancer Foundation will continue to blossom on the Ohio State University campus for decades to come.

H&R Block co-founder Richard Bloch sponsored the gift to the Chadwick Arboretum in order to create and maintain a cancer survivors park, which was officially dedicated May 23.

The Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Plaza is constructed on a 4-acre tract of land. It features eight life-size bronze sculptures of cancer survivors, 14 plaques with instructional and inspirational messages and an abundance of foliage, courtesy of Mother Nature.

"This park is not going to change the incidence of cancer," Bloch said. "But it will help a few people each year to not give up."

Bloch was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 1978 and was given three months to live. However, following multi-disciplinary treatments of surgery, chemotherapy and large doses of positive thinking, Bloch has been in full remission since 1980.

"This beautiful spot is quite literally a cornerstone for the campus," said university President Gordon Gee. "And I am certain this fall, many people will meet here and be touched by this great plaza."

The OSU park is one of eight in the nation, and is the only park constructed on a university campus. Other cities with cancer survivor parks include Cleveland, Houston, Kansas City and New Orleans.

"Ohio State, and especially the James Cancer Hospital, is an outstanding place. It offers hope," Bloch said.

"And that is the purpose of the park. Everybody cannot beat cancer, but everybody can try."

"This is why I am alive, and I want to help others try to succeed."
FEATURES OF THE CANCER SURVIVORS' PLAZA

A steady stream of visitors have toured the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Park since it was dedicated May 23. The park, which is located on the northeast corner of Lane Avenue and Olentangy River Road, features an "open arms" plaza, plaques, sculptures, a computerized listing of central Ohio cancer survivors (soon to be installed), and dramatic natural surroundings that combine to create a place of meditation and encouragement. The positive mental attitude walk has stations consisting of 14 plaques—four inspirational messages and 10 instructive messages. A bronze sculpture, created by the late Victor Salmones, depicts the success of cancer patients who have overcome the disease.

The most popular sculptural component is the floating sphere fountain. The smooth, granite two-ton sphere, which is ground and polished, sits atop an eight-ton rough granite boulder receptacle that was brought from Germany. Water shoots up from underneath the sphere, fills the cup with water and by hydrostatic pressure, the sphere floats. The area between the sphere and the socket that holds it is so tight that a credit card won’t fit between them.

Architect Milosav Cekic was selected to design this and five other cancer survivor parks. He was present at the dedication, along with the Blochs (Richard is the R in H&R Block Tax Preparation), Columbus Mayor Greg Lashutka, Ohio’s First Lady Janet Voinovich, OSU President E. Gordon Gee, Dean of the College of Agriculture Bobby Moser, and OSU Chadwick Arboretum Program Coordinator Janet Oberliesen. The principal intent in the design of the plaza is to create a meditative place in a natural setting, and to infuse that place with strong metaphorical references reflecting notions of self healing, inner light, and transformation.

Local artists will also be involved in post-dedication design to encourage community participation.

Central Ohio cancer survivors who are in remission for at least five years from—the date of their diagnosis are encouraged to add their names to the plaza’s database by calling the Franklin County Unit of the American Cancer Society at 228-8466.

The park is free and open to the public. And, it’s particularly dramatic to visit the park in the evening when the lights are on—it provides a more intense feeling of self awareness. Plan to stop by soon!
OSU President Gordon Gee and Ohio’s First Lady Janet Voinovich chat at the Cancer Survivors Plaza dedication, May 23, 1996.

Bobby Moser, Dean of the College makes a point before the garland is cut at the dedication of the Cancer Survivors Plaza. In line to help were donors Richard and Annette Bloch, President Gordon Gee, Janet Voinovich, Columbus Mayor Greg Lashutka, and Chadwick Arboretum Coordinating Council and Development Officer Janet Oberliesen.
Gleeful Granite

The statues at the Bloch Cancer Survivors Park symbolize people who have survived cancer. The park is located at Lane avenue and Olentangy River road.