

# Cancer Survivors Park gets design award

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EMC News In recognition of its unique design and purpose, the Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Park recently received an urban design award of merit from the City of Ottawa.

The park, located at the intersection of Alta Vista Dr. and Industrial Ave., was built as a space offering for peace and serenity.

Alta Vista ward Coun. Peter Hume said he believes the park won for its intriguing design, but also for its use of parkland.

"We all assume park space is passive and used for recreation, but in this case the park ... includes very interesting elements of public art and it defines an entrance to community," said Coun. Hume.

"There is a lot of detail in the park that makes it interesting and exciting."

The park has local art, sculptures, benches and giant tulips incorporated in its design.

"When you look at it at night, the flowers are lit with different coloured lights so during all of Ottawa's diverse seasons the park is still a focal point," the councillor noted.

This park has been respected by the Ottawa community and has not been victim to vandalism and graffiti as many other parks have.

Coun. Hume also credits the park for being a true public-private partnership with the Bloch Foundation and hopes this becomes a model for other communities to follow.

The Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation is one of the many partners of this park and was pleased with the recognition it received from the city.

"This award is a true honour for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation. The Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivors Park is a project that truly encompasses the spirit of partnership in our community," said Linda Eagen, president and CEO of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation in an e-mail.

"Working together with the Riverview Park Community Association and local government, the cancer foundation made this dream a reality. Today, the park serves as a place of hope, inspiration and survivorship for thousands of local residents and their families."

The idea for the park originated with Chuck and Bonnie Merovitz, who came across a cancer survivors park in another city while they were traveling.

"I think the park is great for a couple reasons," said Coun. Hume.

"Not just because it's a great park, but also because of the people involved. We need to highlight not only the regional cancer foundation picking up the ball and carrying it to completion, but also Chuck Merovitz and former Ottawa mayor Bob Chiarelli who got the idea going and were the ones who coordinated with the Bloch Foundation."

The urban design awards take place every two years, recognizing various projects in four categories.

For more information about the park, please visit [www.cancersurvivorspark.ca](http://www.cancersurvivorspark.ca).