

Freedom Lawns

2012

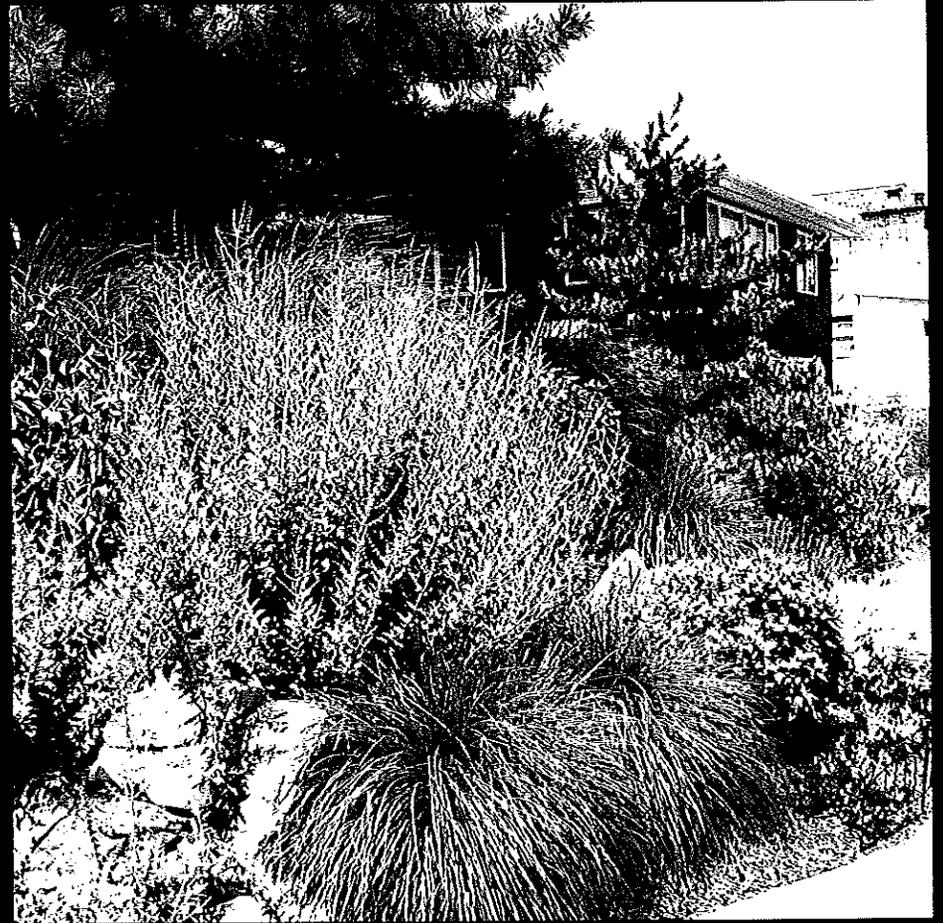


freedom lawn





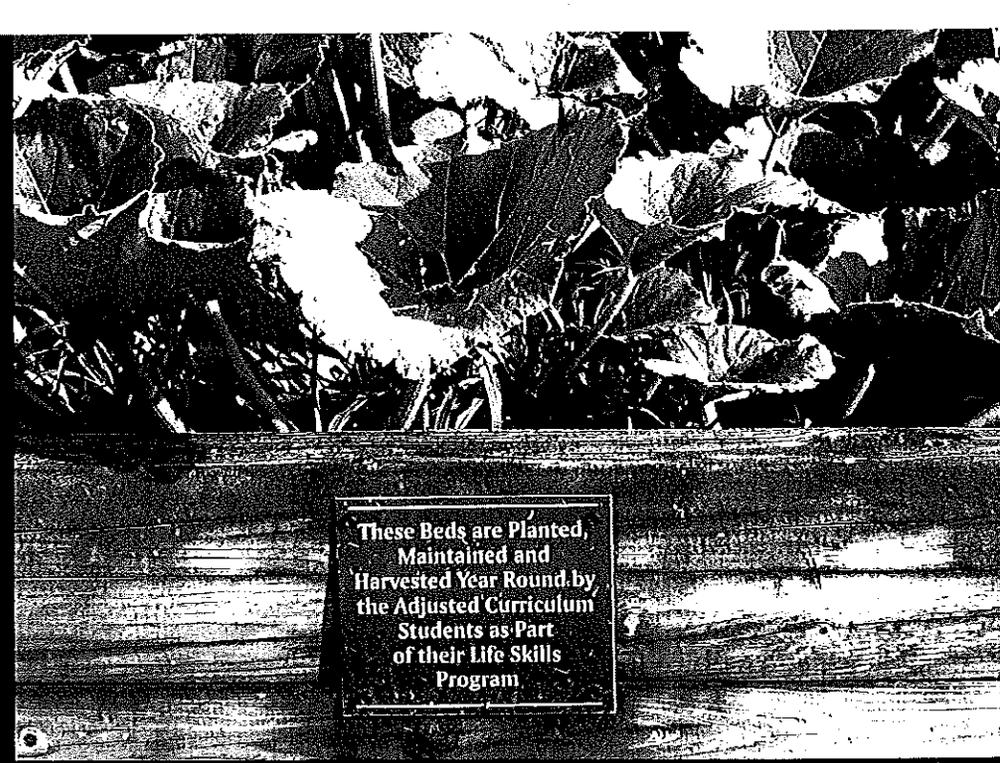
We would especially
like to promote pocket
park gardens and
vegetable gardens for
all schools.



This year we discovered a neighborhood that shares gardens,
and space, yielding bounty for all.



Beds are used



These Beds are Planted,
Maintained and
Harvested Year Round by
the Adjusted Curriculum
Students as Part
of their Life Skills
Program



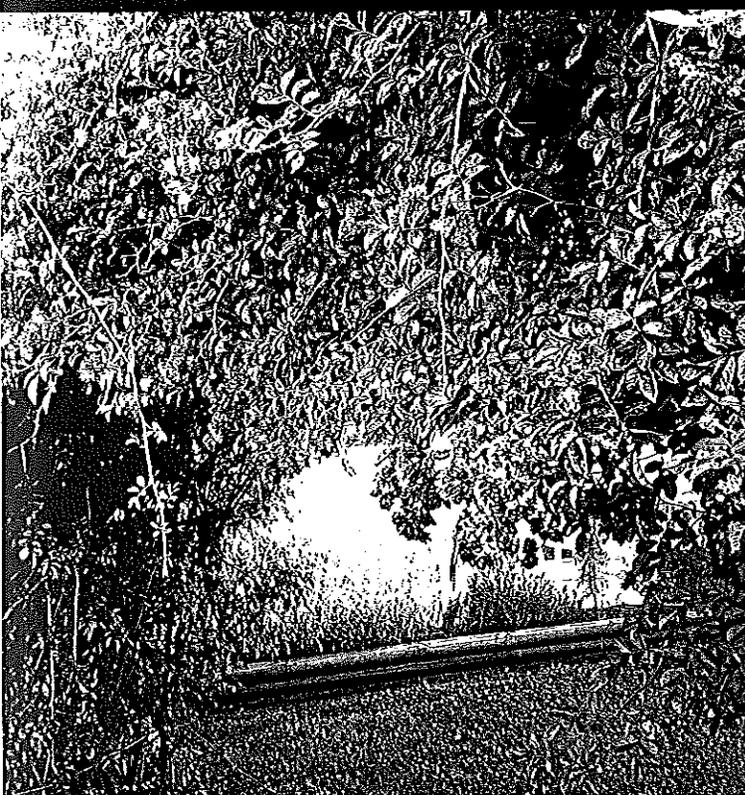


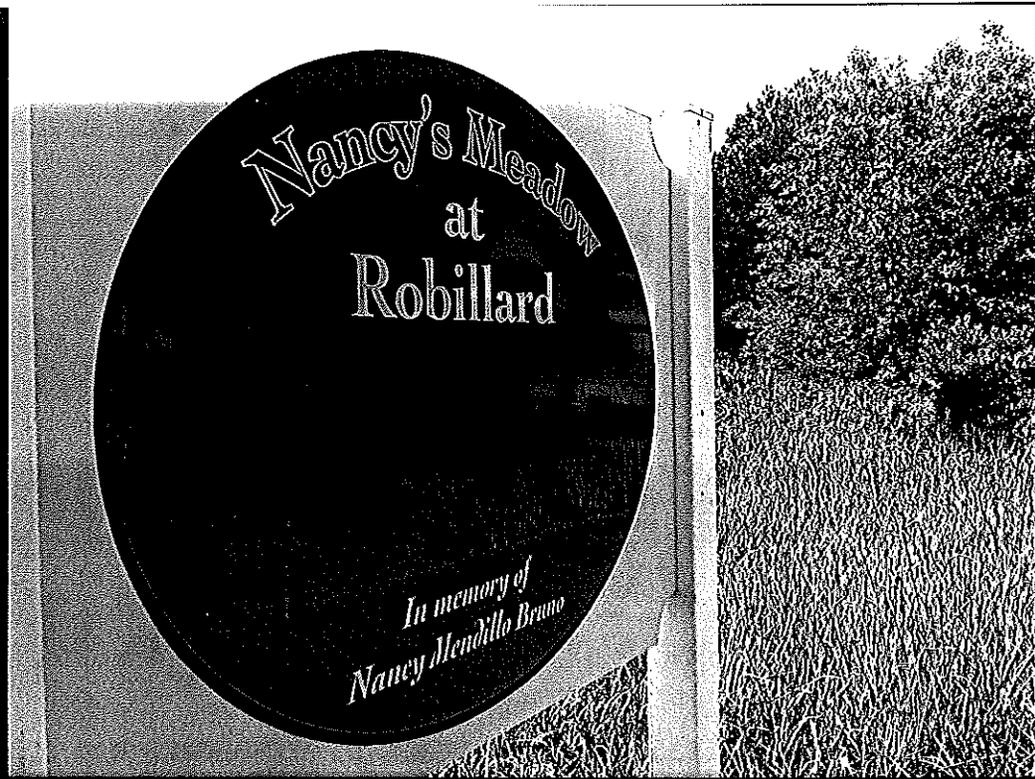


Private open
space
stewardship
benefits us all





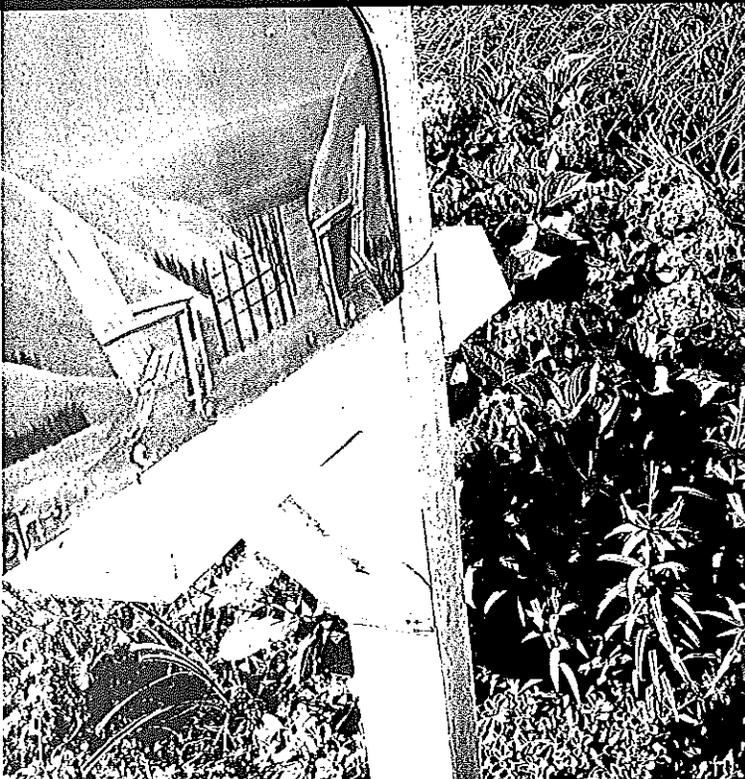
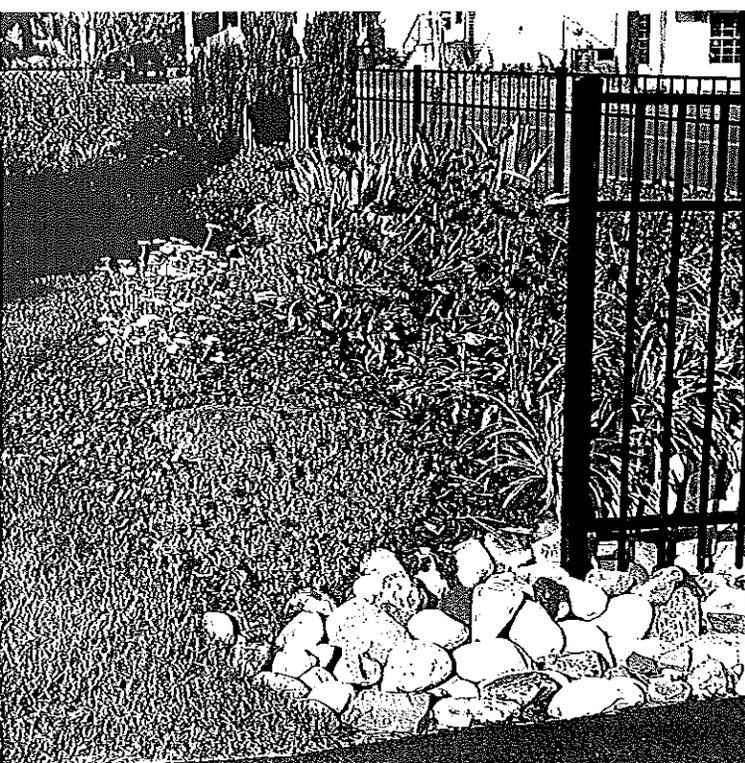


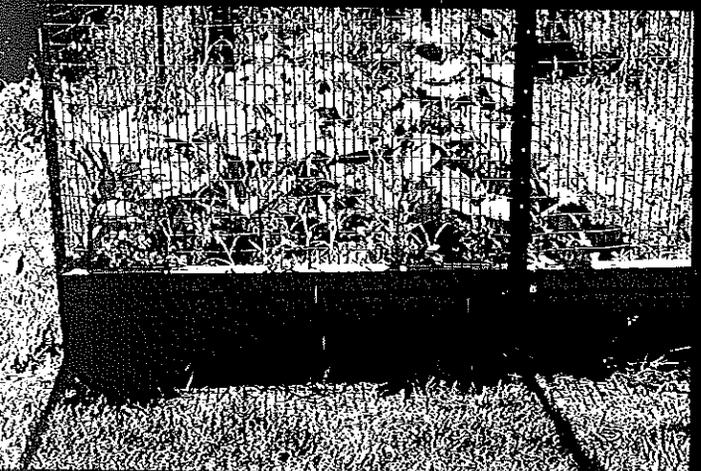
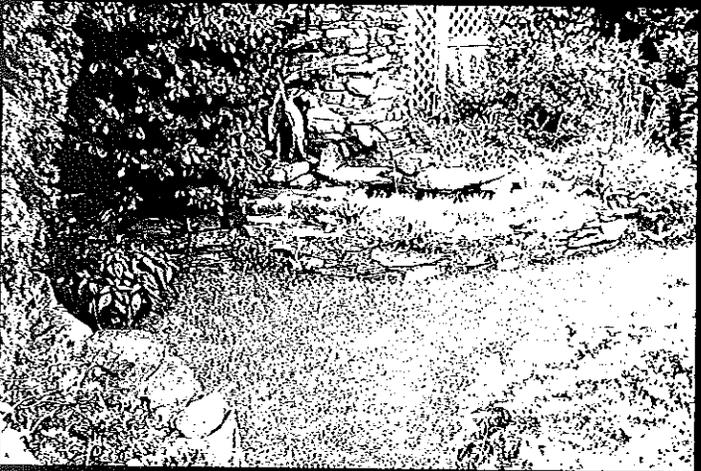
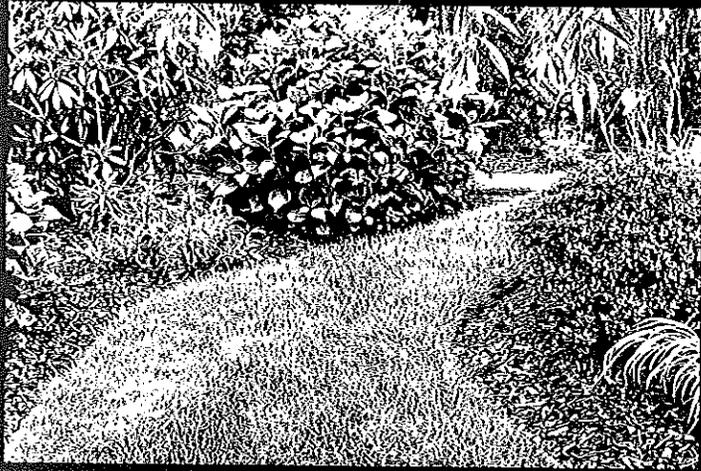


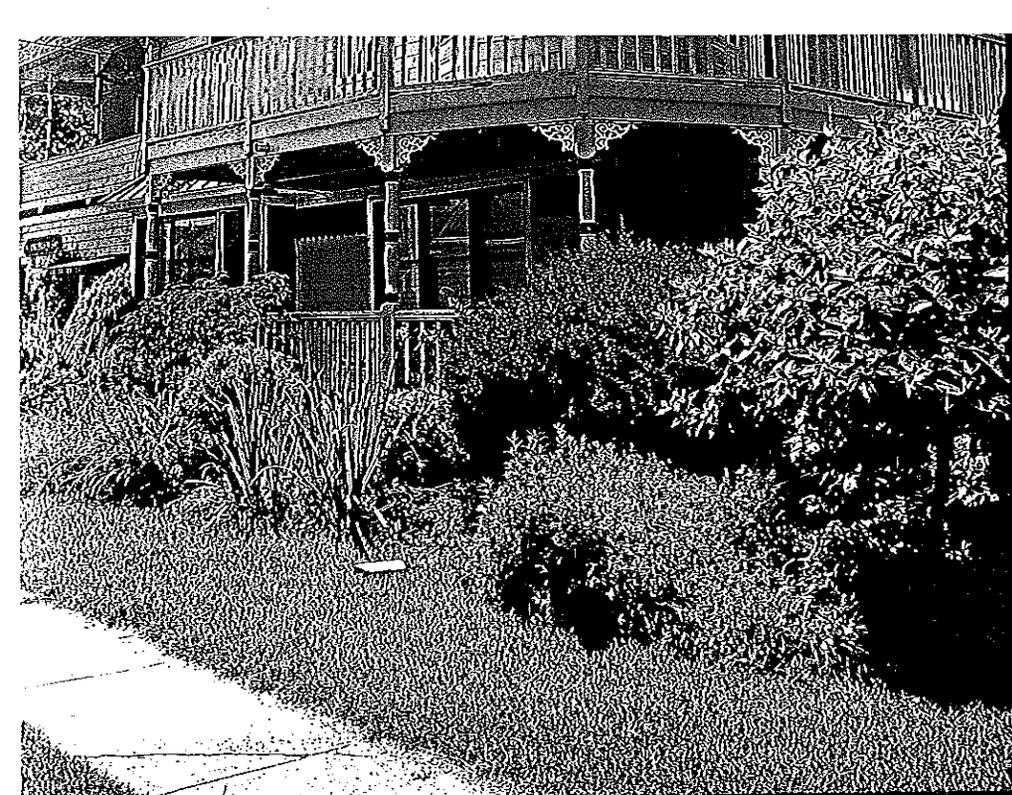
New park and meadow



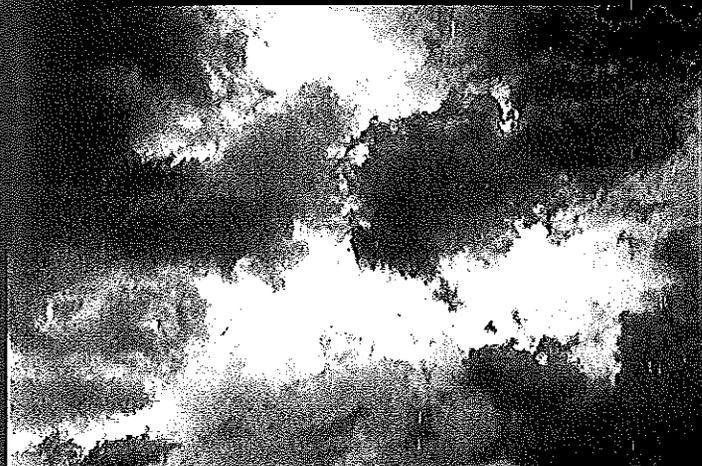


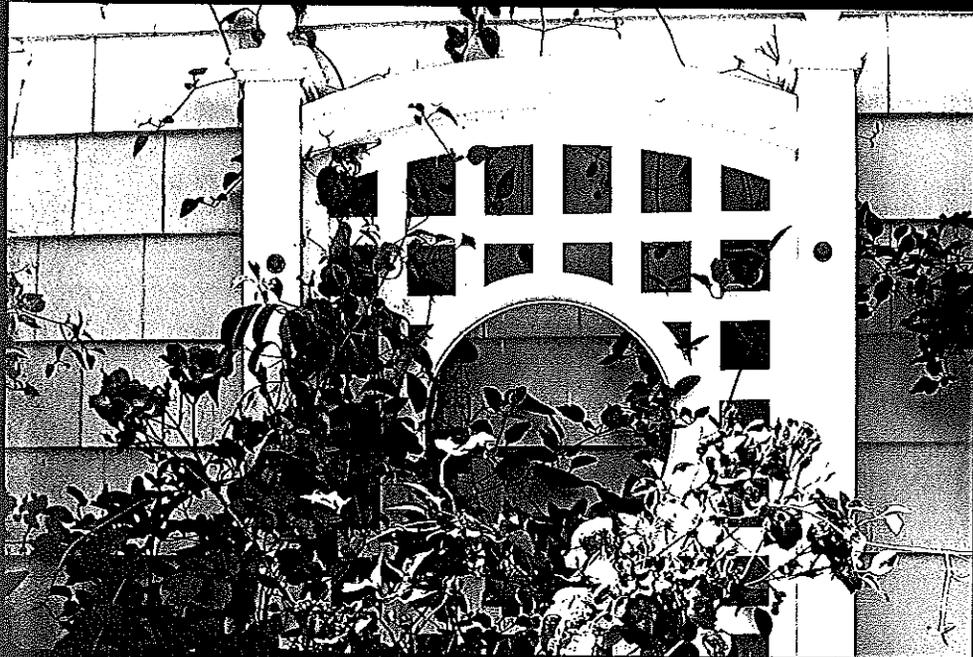






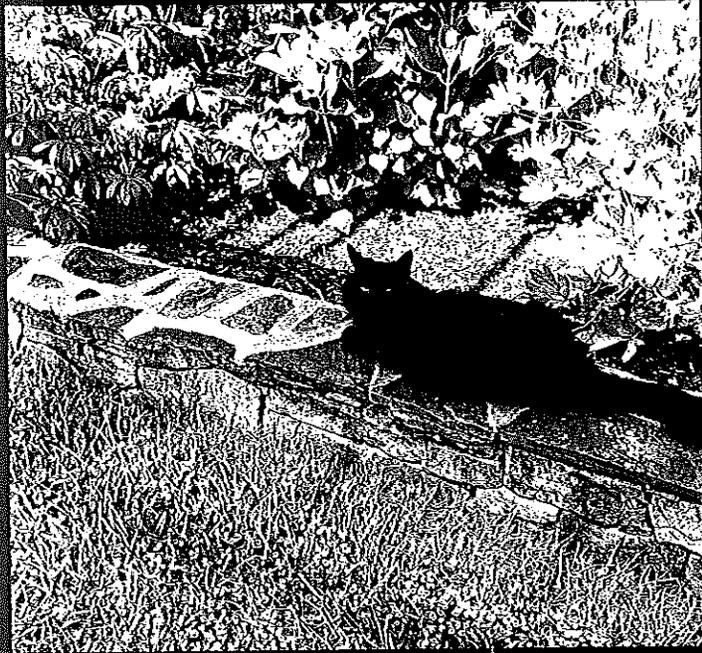


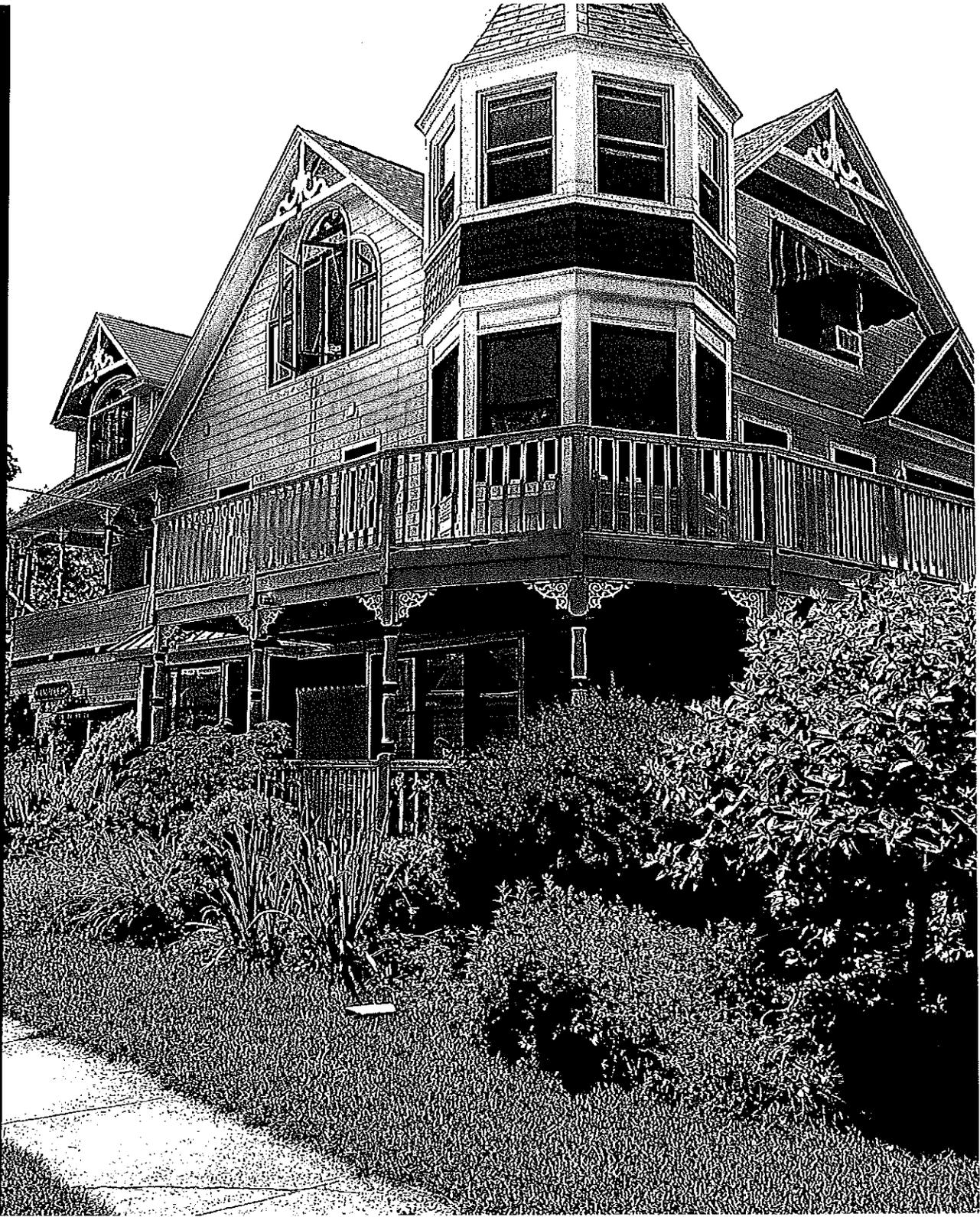


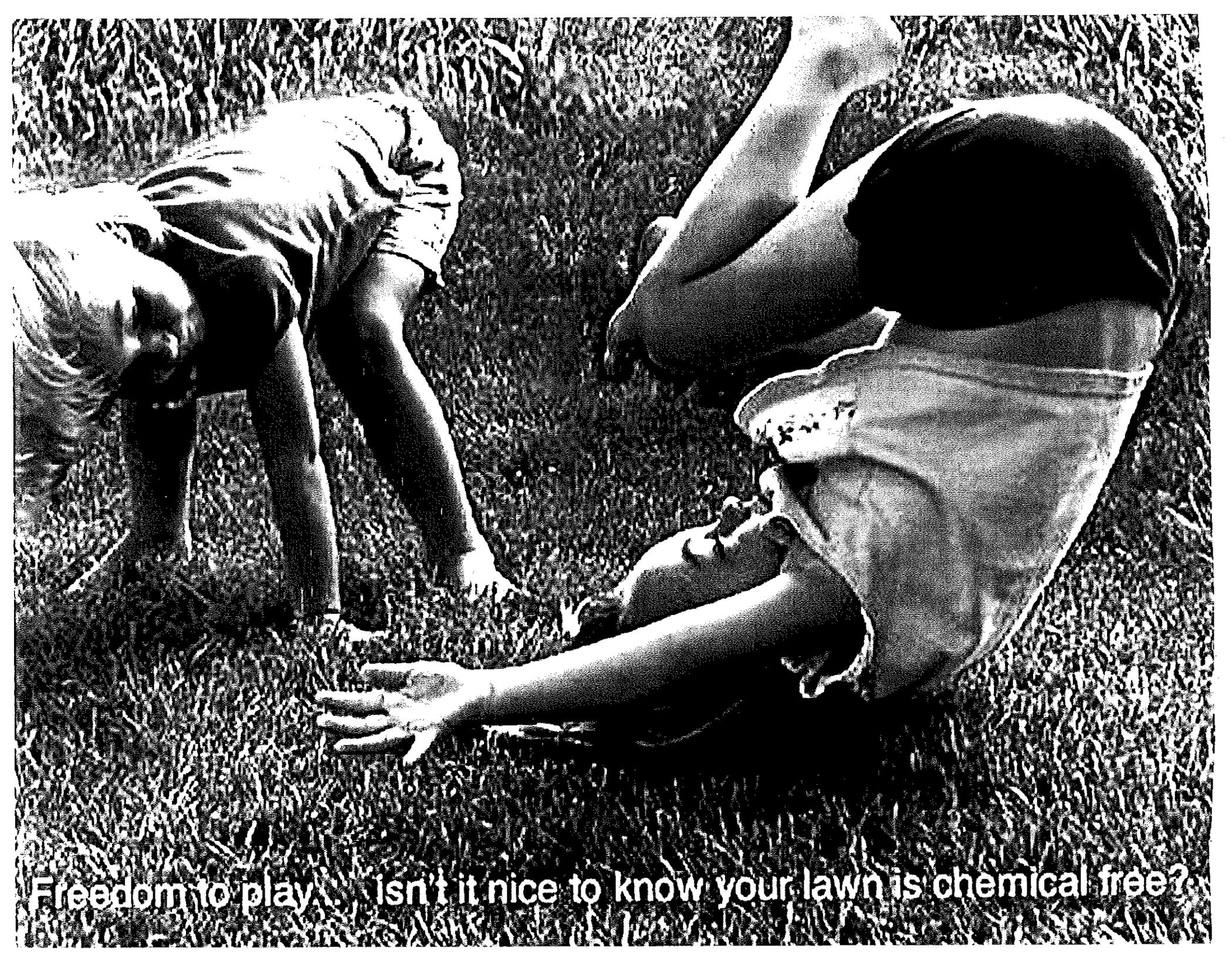












Freedom to play. Isn't it nice to know your lawn is chemical free?



Ann Berman
Laurel Lobovits M.D.
Freedom Lawn Co-Chairs

It's amazing the diversity of approaches to the garden that we see in the contest entries, but all are unified by a philosophy of working with nature. For these gardeners toxic products represent the opposite of what they go into the garden to find.

*Some people in Milford aren't aware of our contest, or that it is a model for other communities. They probably don't know that it has been mentioned in widely read books such as *Redesigning the American Lawn* and *Suburban Safari*, or that the contest shows up in press and websites from all over the country. When they contact us, the most common request from the media is for photographs of contest entries. Photos of gardens and lawns that are free of toxic pesticides and herbicides are the most convincing evidence that the serious health risks associated with those products are not balanced by any benefits. A picture of an artistic perennial border or happy tomato plant can actually encourage others to withstand the advertising onslaught of the lawn care product industry.*

*The term Freedom Lawn comes from the book *Redesigning The American Lawn*. In 1996, Betsey Wright, then chair of the ECC, came up with the Freedom Lawn Contest to promote lawns without chemicals. In 2001, Ann Berman, now chair of ECC, got the Board of Alderman to pass a Resolution encouraging all citizens to have Freedom Lawns. The contest has continued until today.*

As co-chair of the Freedom Lawn Committee, I occasionally speak on the health hazards associated with pesticides. There are many studies demonstrating the extent and type of health issues but essentially, there is only one take home message:

"If your yard/garden can look great without putting harmful products on it, why do it?"

Entering the contest is a way of becoming part of a global community of people who understand that good stewardship of our planet begins in our backyards.

Freedom Lawn Winners for 2012:

Best Lawn: Sheila & Leroy Maiers, page 6

Best Landscaping: Daren & Alexander Lojko, page 7

Best Stewardship: Kevin Smith, page 8

Best Veggie Garden: Josephine Robinson & Dean Fisher, page 9

Best Flower Garden: David Walker, page 10

