

**Grand Island Commission for the
Conservation of the Environment
Enhanced Environment Overlay Districts
2005 Research Award**

In the mid-80s, there was concern among residents that Grand Island's rural aspect would be compromised as the pace of island development accelerated. Formed at this time, Quality Quest Coalition (QQC) worked for provisions in the Comprehensive Master Plan Update (CMP) that would protect the isle's environment.

QQC invited DEC Region 9 Senior Biologist, Kenneth Roblee to speak in February 1993 regarding the six ecosystems he'd identified on Grand Island. The delineation of the "six" became a part of the CMP when Conservation Commission Chairman Gary Roesch requested their inclusion at a public hearing.

Andy Zepp of The Nature Conservancy informed Dorothy Westhofer, Chair, Grand Island Commission for the Conservation of the Environment, that Perinton used Limited Development District (LDD) zoning to protect natural infrastructure. Perinton Conservation Board Chairman Doug Stinson came to speak at Grand Island. In January 1996, Grand Island town officials and QQC representatives visited Perinton and learned that LDD zoning had survived court challenges and realtors touted LDDs in their ads.

A second trip in March 2002 by Conservation Commission members and QQC representatives was crucial - Grand Island was updating its zoning code, the "teeth" for the CMP which would protect future ecosystem compromise. The Conservation Commission worked on the new zoning with assistance from town attorneys and, in July 2004, the updated zoning code with its Enhanced Environment Overlay Districts was in place

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