

**Grand Island Commission for the Conservation of the Environment
Scenic Woods Acquisition Project
for the Preservation of Gun Creek Woods Ecosystem
2000 Special Projects Award**

In 1992 six important ecosystems were identified as being worthy of special consideration in the Town of Grand Island's newly updated Comprehensive Plan. The Gun Creek ecosystem was rated as the most important and plans for preservation were formulated. Partial acquisitions between 1996 and 2000 occurred. Finally, with funding from multiple sources, it was possible to acquire Scenic Woods, the last major piece of the Gun Creek Woods ecosystem.

The Grand Island Commission for the Conservation of the Environment planned and coordinated the various aspects of this acquisition. Their work included the compilation of an open space inventory, identification and prioritization of important ecosystems on Grand Island, identifying and securing various sources of funding, and securing the support of and coordinating the efforts of the various organizations involved in providing information and/or funding for the project. This is the first time the Town of Grand Island has spent any funds originating from the Town's own treasury on land acquisition for open space and natural environmental protection. The Conservation Commission had to work long and hard to get community understanding and acceptance of the goals.