§ 53-0101. Legislative purpose.

There is a direct relationship between the planting of trees, shrubs and associated vegetation in sufficient number in populated areas and the health, safety, and welfare of communities. Trees and such vegetation abate noise, provide welcome shade to people, preserve the balance of oxygen in the air by removing carbon dioxide and fostering air quality, and add color and verdure to human construction. They also stabilize the soil and control water pollution by preventing soil erosion and flooding, yield advantageous microclimatic effects, and provide a natural habitat for wildlife. The destructive and indiscriminate removal of trees and related vegetation causes increased municipal costs for proper drainage control, impairs the benefits of occupancy of existing residential properties and impairs the stability and value of both improved and unimproved real property in the area of destruction, and adversely affects the health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the state. In the interests of a greener and more livable state, it is determined by the legislature that an affirmative program to encourage the conservation and planting of trees, shrubs and other vegetation is necessary in the public interest in order that coming generations will continue to enjoy and benefit by our care in a green New York.