§ 3.01 Declaration of policy. The state of New York is abundant in natural, scenic and other recreational resources, which for over a century have educated, edified, uplifted and delighted our citizens. The establishment and maintenance of a statewide system of parks, recreation and historic preservation are hereby declared to be policies of the state;

It is further declared that the general welfare of each citizen of the state is enhanced and promoted by giving further recognition to the magnificent state park, recreation and historic site system which is now in existence;

It is further declared that the individual's sense of purpose, well being, and identity are fostered and strengthened through parks, recreation and historic preservation programs;

It is further declared that local, state and national programs for parks, recreation and historic preservation must be coordinated and that such coordination is logically a state function;

It is further declared that the natural, ecological, historic, cultural and recreational resources within the state park, recreation and historic site system are integral components of the state's environment and contribute substantially to the quality of that environment and to the quality of our lives;

It is further declared that the stewardship of the natural, ecological, historic, cultural and recreational resources within the state park, recreation and historic site system is a primary responsibility of the state;

It is further stated that these purposes can best be served by continuing the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation in accordance with the terms of this chapter.