

PROCLAMATION

MONARCH BUTTERFLY MONTH

MAY 2025

WHEREAS, the monarch butterfly is an iconic species whose multigenerational migration and metamorphosis on its annual cross-border journey serves as a powerful symbol of enduring dignity, resilience, and hope of migrants everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the monarch's eastern population has declined by as much as ninety percent, an indicator of the current global biodiversity crisis which results from habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park recognizes that human health ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems and that biodiverse regions can better support food production, healthy soil, and air quality and can foster healthy connections between humans and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 2022, the Village of Oak Park declared a climate emergency and adopted the award-winning *Climate Ready Oak Park* (CROP) community plan, thereby committing to protecting and enhancing biodiversity on thirty percent of community land by 2030; and

WHEREAS, as expressed in the CROP plan, the Village of Oak Park recognizes the critical role that pollinators play in sustaining local ecosystems and supports the establishment of a trail of informational "pollinator waystations" across residential, public, institutional, and commercial properties to encourage biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, Oak Park strives to increase safe and equitable access to healthy green spaces and maintain wildlife corridors for pollinators and migratory birds by setting and implementing a green space access goal that benefits both residents and local ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the Village plants native milkweed and nectar plants on public properties—such as traffic diverters, cul-de-sacs, medians, and planters—when appropriate, thereby expanding vital pollinator habitats and supporting the health of Monarch butterflies and other pollinator species; and

WHEREAS, the Village's Public Works Center is home to a certified Monarch butterfly waystation, demonstrating the Village's commitment to providing essential resources for the survival and migration of Monarchs; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2024, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, signed the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, officially committing to take meaningful action to protect the monarch butterfly;

WHEREAS, I have further committed to extending this pledge through 2025, with an official signing on behalf of the Village of Oak Park to be completed by March 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is partnering with the local organization West Cook Wild Ones for their annual Spring Native Plant Sale to offer benefits to Oak Park Residents; and

WHEREAS, it is within the ability and power of every community member to protect monarchs and other pollinators by planting native milkweed and nectar plants where we live, work, learn, play, and gather.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the Month of May 2025 as MONARCH BUTTERFLY MONTH and ask community members and local institutions and organizations to take action to address the challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity, not only during this month but throughout the year.

DATED this 11th day of March 2025.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk