

Year of the Butterfly Proclamation

WHEREAS, we know everyone has been suffering through one of the harshest years, 2020, but is it only humans suffering? No, many other species are, too. One large group of species is especially threatened with becoming extinct--butterflies.

WHEREAS, butterflies have been a symbol of peace, hope and good fortune in many countries and cultures for a long time; they are iconic in beauty and they bring wildlife even to dense cities; and their story of transformation from a land-bound caterpillar to a free-flying butterfly is an inspiration for all of us.

WHEREAS, to create hope for us and for butterflies, we believe 2021 should be proclaimed "The Year Of The Butterfly" by the Village of Oak Park, in order to be a model for other communities in creating habitat for butterflies to rebuild their populations.

WHEREAS, citizens need to know that butterflies lay their eggs on certain host plants, like milkweed, plantain and oak trees, and caterpillars feed on milkweed, parsley, dill and other native flowers, and they make their chrysalises on many native plants and many need undisturbed leaves to survive the winter, we all need to join together to learn how create the habitat that many different kinds of butterflies need to thrive.

WHEREAS, humans have the remarkable ability to make organization out of chaos, it is time that we use this skill to help the creatures among us; and by helping butterflies, other insects and birds will benefit.

WHEREAS, butterflies as a symbol of hope and immortality can inspire us to keep going through a difficult time; as a symbol of beauty, they can remind us that the smallest things are also important; as a symbol of transformation, they remind us that things can get better.

WHEREAS, by proclaiming 2021 "The Year of the Butterfly" in Oak Park, we can all rally around this symbol to create a better future for butterflies and ourselves.

Written by the Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School Earth Action Team and Laura Stamp, Club Leader and 8th Grade Science Teacher

Brooks Earth Action Team (BEAT): Mahima Krishanan, Benjamin Drucker, Elora Cianciolo, Jordan Macedo, Ethan Cooper, Amelia Kinney, Jalen Martin and Emmanuel Belance