

# Certificate of Authenticity



## Treaty Oak Remembered

The Treaty Oak is a 500 year old Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*) which lives in Austin, Texas. This majestic oak is the last of a grove of oaks which, prior to settling of the area in the early 1800's, was used by Native Americans as a meeting ground and for religious ceremonies. The Treaty Oak got its name from stories of a boundary treaty signed by Stephen F. Austin with area natives. During Austin's early years, the Treaty Oak was a popular destination for picnicking and family outings. In the early 1930's, the Treaty Oak was named the most perfect specimen of a Live Oak in the nation. In the late 1930's, it was threatened by development, and people all across Texas rallied to its support. Children donated milk money and a special edition of the "Poet's Scroll", a poetry magazine, was produced, dedicated to the Treaty Oak. With funds from these and other efforts, the



Treaty Oak and the quarter-acre area covered by its branches were bought by the City of Austin as parkland. In 1989, the Treaty Oak was maliciously poisoned. Incredible and heroic efforts were undertaken to save the tree. These efforts were partially successful. Approximately one-half of the tree remains and is slowly recovering. In the Fall of 1997, the first crop of acorns was produced by Treaty Oak since its poisoning. The tree which you have is from one of those acorns. It was germinated by Native Texas Nursery and grown out to its current size by Arbormasters Tree Farm of Austin. The funds raised by the sale of these "Baby Treaty Oaks" is used to plant and care for additional trees in the Austin area. Thank you for helping add to the Treaty Oak Memorial Forest.

Jesus M. Olivares, Director  
City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Kirk Watson, Mayor  
City of Austin