

City of Royal Oak – History of the City Seal

The seal was designed in four colors - blue, gold, red and black. The outer portion of the City Seal shows that the City was incorporated in 1921 on June 21st and oak tree branches are included in the circular border.

The American Eagle, on top of the crest, is our national bird, which symbolizes superior authority and jurisdiction of the United States over local governments. The eagle is on the Michigan's Great Seal, also. Under the shield are the Latin words "Vivimus Servire" which mean "We live to serve".

Inside the circle the crest symbolizes the national, state, county and local heritage of the community. The four quadrants of the crest contain an elk on the right side (same as in the Michigan's Great Seal), and represents one of Michigan's great animals and a reminder of Michigan's native wildlife and the fur trade. The lion on the left was taken from the coat of arms of Charles II of England and marks the origin of the term "Royal Oak". The oak tree, symbolic of the county, represents great age and strength and the three acorns allude to the three branches of national government.

The City of Royal Oak is the remains of what was once a great oak forest. Michigan Governor Cass, when establishing the first road into the interior of Oakland County, used a large oak tree as a station point. It was marked on the map by the Governor as the "Royal Oak".

This seal was designed by Michael Lesko, the Personnel Director for the City of Royal Oak, and was approved by the City Commission in January, 1965.

