

Community Profile

Book

Demopolis, Alabama

2012



Population Category: 7,000-10,000

AIB PARTICIPTION HISTORY

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BLOOM RATING</u>	<u>SPECIAL MENTION</u>	<u>CRITERIA AWARD</u>
2011	3	BEST HANGING BASKETS	

2011 Hanging Baskets



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction to Demopolis
- 2012 Municipal Information
- Tidiness Effort- General Maintenance and Upkeep of Community
- Environmental Effort- Sustainable Development and Awareness
- Community Involvement- Citizens' Volunteer Involvement
- Heritage- Preserving Your Past for Future Generations
- Urban Forestry
- Landscaped Areas- Designed Tree, Shrub, Perennial Plantings
- Floral Displays- Attracting Attention with Colorful Plantings
- Turf and Ground Cover Areas- Parks, Landscapes and Recreational Areas
- Best Idea

INTRODUCTION TO DEMOPOLIS, ALABAMA

Demopolis is often referred to as the “Jewel of the Black Belt” because it has managed to retain its “small town charm” while acting with “big city ideas”. It is located in West Central Alabama, 30 miles from the Alabama-Mississippi border or 60 miles South of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on US Highways 43 and 80.

We offer exceptional services in the areas of education, healthcare, business, and recreation. Some of those services include: a consistently highly ranked city school system including the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award winning Demopolis High School (one of only 5 in the state of Alabama) which is supported by the Demopolis City School Foundation which awards over \$50,000 in grants each year to teachers and schools. Demopolis also offers 500 acres of dedicated park and recreation area including a 300-acre Sportsplex devoted to all sports enthusiasts and the 99 acre Foscue Creek Corps of Engineers Park.

Demopolis prides itself on its beautiful civic appearance with numerous well maintained historic buildings and districts both public and private scattered throughout the city, and concentrated in our well preserved downtown area. To compliment these buildings and to add to their old fashioned charm and character, the city has a highly acclaimed Horticulture Department which ensures that the planted public areas of the city are kept well groomed and bright with decorative seasonal flowers and plants throughout the year. These plantings include: the historic downtown area, the traffic medians throughout the city, as well as the maintenance of the East, West.

2012 MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

Population:	7,483
City Website:	http://demopolisal.gov
City Contact Name:	Barbara Blevins, City Horticulturist
AIB Committee Chair Contact:	Barbara Blevins
Town Area in Square Miles:	8
Miles of Streets:	72
Acres of Active Recreation:	398
Acres of Passive Recreation:	102
Percent of Zoned Business:	30%
Percent of Zoned Residential:	70%
Percent of Mixed Use:	0%
Is there a Chamber of Commerce?	Yes
Is there a Convention & Visitors Bureau?	Yes
List of Civic Organizations:	Rotary Club, Civitan Club, Garden Club, Marengo Historical Society, Pilot Club, Hospital Auxiliary, VFW, Kiwanis, Toast

Masters, Masons, Knights of Columbus,
Church Organizations

Services Provided by Municipal Government: Police, Fire, Public Works, Horticulture, Parks and Rec., Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, Water and Sewer, Airport, Port Authority

Number of Volunteers: 500

Do you have a Volunteer Coordinator? Yes

What Volunteer Opportunities are prompted for Civic Improvement?

There are numerous city committees and boards, recycling and beautification, events, animal shelter assistance, park and rec. programs and several annual community events; such as; Adopt-A-Trail, several youth programs, low-income and homeless programs, senior programs, numerous programs at the Public Library, food drives, and youth civic learning.

List positive things that have taken place because of your participation in America in Bloom: America in Bloom has been really great for our community. Together we can make a change. I have been working for the City of Demopolis since February 2008 and I can see a tremendous difference. Ben Sherrod and Rebecca Culpeper originally started the Beautification Department and without those two great people Demopolis wouldn't be what it is today. Beautiful Oaks, Magnolias, shrubs, and flowers I can go on and on. I am very proud to be a member of AIB and I hope with the right guidance and information we can raise our BLOOM RATING to a 5!!!

**TIDINESS EFFORT – GENERAL MAINTAINCE AND UPKEEP OF
COMMUNITY**

Best Community Program – 2011 Auntie Litter Award

Municipal Sector:

- Demopolis is being pro- active assisting new residents and businesses with information about the city and improving neighborhood.
- Demopolis Public Works schedules a truck and trailer to go around the residential and commercial areas and pick up limbs and leaves 5 days week. Also have a limb loader that goes out 2 times a week to pick up larger limbs and piles.
- Public Works and Horticulture Department will use Community Service workers and Prison Inmates to pick up trash weekly to work off fines.
- Public Works takes care of any Graffiti that needs to be removed throughout the city. We also assist homeowners and businesses if needed
- Park and Recreation has provided dog waste stations in many of our parks.

- Horticulture Department partners with PALS every spring and pick up trash” Partners Against Litter State” provide garbage bags and t-shirts. We have been a member with PALS for 8 years.
- Horticulture also involved in AUNTIE LITTER program. We’ve been involved with the program for 5 years.
- The City of Demopolis includes ordinances that prevent overgrown grasses, unsightly or unsanitary trash or stagnant pools of water. There is also regulation of visible unlicensed vehicles, which must be stored in safe and secure enclosed buildings.

Commercial Volunteer Involvement:

- City of Demopolis Public Works partners with Alabama Power Co. and Corp of Engineers every fall with a program called “Renew Our Rivers” and Demopolis residents, with proof of residency, are allowed to drop off couches, chairs, paint, mattresses, large appliances, televisions, carpet, padding, vinyl flooring, drywall and plumbing fixtures.
- Rock Tenn. Paper Co. sends a crew out with weed eaters, mowers, and paper sticks to assist Public Works and Horticulture Department before we have a large event.
- CEMEX Cement Co. picks up McNamara Road monthly.
- Demopolis High School, Middle School, Us Jones Elementary, and Westside School have students to pick up litter around campus daily. Also in the spring they have a spring cleanup.
- Advance Disposal provides dumpsters for Renew our Rivers.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORT

Municipal Sector:

- Public Works picks up all scrap metal throughout the city daily and recycles these materials at Colby Recycling. Public Works has turned in over 20,000 lbs in 2011 and the funds \$3000.00 dollars was put into his budget to purchase items for his department.
- Public Works also picks up old tires that are alongside of the roads and ditches. Cemex then takes the tires and recycles them.
- Horticultural Department celebrates Earth Day.
- Public Works recycle oil out of all trucks, mowers, and tractors. The money Public Works receives goes back into his budget to purchase other supplies in his department.
- The Horticulture Department recycles the leaves and grass clippings picked up weekly from residents and turned into compost. Horticulture is in the process of purchasing a chipper so we can shred the limbs into mulch.

- Public Works partners up with Alabama Power and the Corp of Engineers every fall with the program called Renew Our Rivers. The annual program, aimed at cleaning up Alabama's waterways has removed nearly 300,000 pounds of trash from Demopolis waterway over the past six years.
- Water Department uses electric golf cart to check water meters around town.
- Public Works uses an electric golf cart and a gator to pick up paper, weed eat, and fix road signs.
- Horticulture Department also uses electric golf cart to water plants around town, spray pesticides, and pick up paper.
- Any recyclable material from City Hall is taken to Tuscaloosa Recycling Center.
- Demopolis Police Department has a Nation Drug Take Back Program: this program is to get prescription drugs off the streets.
- Public Works uses Bacillus briquettes in all ditches to keep away mosquitoes.
- Park and Rec. uses Lemon Fresh Joy on fairways for insect control.
- Horticulture Dept uses insecticidal soap.
- Demopolis Animal Control keeps our streets free of any dead carcass.

Commercial Sector:

- Cemex plant in Demopolis, Alabama received the Innovation Award for its development and application of innovative technologies relevant to environmental protection. The Demopolis plant added a processing line at its facility that can handle a large range of alternative fuels, including wood chips, refuse-derived fuel, peanut shells, and other materials that would have ordinarily been sent to landfills.
- Demopolis Middle School held a poster contest in observance of "KICK BUTTS". This is an educational program to keep kids from smoking.
- University of West Alabama lands BP grant to study Oil Spill Impact. The professors in the college of Natural Sciences & Mathematics recently received \$45,310.00 grant from the Marine Environmental Science Consortium.
- Westside School, High School, Middle School, and US Jones recycle aluminum cans, paper, and books.
- Demopolis Chamber of Commerce recycles all toner cartridges back to the manufacturer. Chamber also recycles all copy paper, brochures, and phone books.
- Robertson Bank, Bank Trust, Sweetwater Bank, Regions, and Naheola recycle any old paper and books.
- Mr. Rogers picks up any cardboard and Christmas trees

Private Properties/ Citizens:

- Christmas on the River volunteers have started changing out their lighted floats with LED lights. COTR took old shelves the Horticulture Department had a refurbished for their use. Any old paper or item taking off of the floats are recycled and refurbished. Someone donated an old trailer and it will be redesigned into a train and caboose float.
- **The Bassmasters Classic**
- Probably the most important bass tournament there is. From its beginning in 1971 when the first Bassmasters' Classic anglers were put on an airplane without knowing where they were going, with a purse of \$10,000 for the winner, to now with hype for a whole year about the location and a purse of \$1,196,500, the Bassmasters' Classic has come a long way. The 2007 Bassmasters' Classic fishing winner was Boyd Duckett of Demopolis.

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Community Involvement- Citizens' Volunteer Involvement

Municipal Sector:

- Demopolis Police Department has a Yellow Dot Program used to speak for a person if they cannot speak for themselves in an emergency
- Demopolis Police Department also provides Citizens Police Academy
- Demopolis Police Department provides a child safety seat inspection with 4 certified techs.
- Governor Bentley awarded \$145,000 grant to fund a specialized task force to fight drugs in Marengo, Greene, and Sumter Co. also received \$50,000 grant from Alabama Administrative office of courts which provides the offenders with several steps to becoming drug free on example being community service.
- Our local airport is named after Buzz Sawyer who was inducted into the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame
- Demopolis Police Department aided victims of the April 2011 tornado in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- The **Demopolis Area Chamber of Commerce** is a voluntary organization comprised of businesses and individuals interested in the well being of our community. The mission of the Chamber is to provide leadership and coordination for the advancement of economic vitality and quality of life for the total community. In pursuing this mission, the Chamber will always strive to demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the needs and concerns of the business community and individuals of Demopolis and Marengo County, Alabama.
- The **Demopolis Area Chamber of Commerce** works hard to promote local business and industry through a number of venues including tourism, marketing, special events, member networking, training, advocacy, special promotions and of course, paying close attention to the individual needs of our membership.

- The Chamber host Christmas on the River which brings about 40,000 people a year some events such as the BBQ Cook-off, Fair in the Square, Art in the Park, and two parades one day time parade and a nautical parade.
- Chamber also host other events such as; free concerts in the park, Rocking on the River concerts on the Tombigbee, and Freedom on the River
- Chamber has a yearly banquet to recognize businesses, and volunteers in the community along with a silent auction.
- This year the Demopolis in Bloom Team has decided to give awards to recognize several business, churches, and home owners who take pride in our community.
- The City of Demopolis Parks and Recreation Department operates all of its parks and facilities for family fun, health, and recreation. We promote the building of sound minds and bodies for the young and old through exercise, recreation, and the use of these facilities. Any activity that is contrary or offensive to this family and health oriented theme is prohibited

- Youth Programs/Activities

- **Cal Ripken Baseball - Dixie Girls Softball - Babe Ruth Baseball- American Legion Baseball**

Boys and girls age 4-19 are eligible to participate in these programs. Some 40+ teams provide an opportunity for over 400+ youth to further their skills on the baseball and softball diamonds. Registration begins in February. Games begin in April and are played on the three complexes at the Sports-Plex.

- **Emma Gibbs Summer Arts & Crafts Program**

Program Supervisor – Mrs. Emma Gibbs (Staffed from June –July)

Begins every summer in June and lasts for 8 weeks. Open to boys and girls ages 6-13. Held at Jones Recreation Center. Mrs. Emma Gibbs has been employed as Program Supervisor for over 35 summers. A participation fee is charged. Approximately 100+ children participate during the day. This is also a site for the annual summer feeding program.

- **Jones Recreation Swimming Pool**

Facility Manager – Ricky Richardson (Staffed only during summer months)

Opens after school is out for the summer. Morning swimming lessons are offered and general swim is offered in the afternoon. Admission fee is charged for swimming lesson and general swim.

Jr. NBA/WNBA Basketball Camp & League

Open to Boys and Girls ages 7-15.

An annual camp is held during the Christmas Holidays. Basic skills and fundamentals of the game are taught. Schedule varies due to holidays. League play begins the 1st Saturday in January after New Year's Day and lasts until the last Saturday in February or 8 weeks. Games are played on Saturday mornings at the Theo Ratliff Center.



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- **Demopolis Soccer Organization**
- Open to youth ages 4 and up. Registration begins in late summer/early fall. Over 400 boys and girls play AYSO. Games are played at the Sports-Plex.
- **Indoor/Outdoor Facilities**



- **Theo Ratliff Activity Center**
- Facility Manager – Ed Ward
- This facility is a multi-use facility and is open year round for all ages. Call for time, ages and various programs offered. Programs include basketball, volleyball, and exercise classes for adults and youth, health classes, social activities, tutoring, board games, computer skills classes and

much more. Facility is also available to rent for large functions: birthday

- parties, family reunions, etc.

Jones Recreation Center

Available for rent for parties, reunions, meetings, etc except June – August.

- **Pavilions for Rent**
The River Pavilion and the Sports-Plex Pavilion are available to the public on a first come - first serve basis, but can be reserved for birthday parties, cook-outs, etc.
- **Gaineswood Tennis Courts**
4 regulation courts; and a ½ court basketball court
- **River Bluff Tennis Courts**
2 lighted courts
- Areas offer a variety of play equipment from swings, slides, sand volleyball court, climbing equipment, picnic tables, spring animals, ½ court basketball courts.
- Demopolis Animal Control is a very active part of the Demopolis community and surrounding areas. We are the only shelter within the county, and even surrounding counties, therefore we take satisfaction in serving our public! We enforce the city's leash laws, teach animal care at schools and clubs, promote adoptions, and offer humane care of all animals. Our Shelter is open to clubs and school classes year round.

Commercial Sector:

- The Bryan W. Whitfield Memorial Hospital Auxiliary has 52 active volunteers and together serves 10,816 hours a year. BWWMH Auxiliary presented their service awards to volunteers October 2011.
- Rock Tenn. Comes to tornado victims aid; donated \$25,000 to West Alabama Red Cross,
- Rock Tenn. received military support award

- Rock Tenn. donated \$28,000 to the Demopolis City School Foundation.
- Rock Tenn. donated \$3,000 for Habitat for Humanity
- Rock Tenn. donated \$500 to “Coming Together” an organization which feed more than 1200 people on Christmas day.
- Rock Tenn. Donated mobile command unit to Demopolis Police Department



- Rock Tenn. donates wood chips to Horticulture Department
- Cemex donated \$2,500 to the Demopolis City School Foundation
- Demopolis Police Department collected more than 5,358 pounds of food for the Stamp Out Food Drive, Hunger 2011.
- Bryan W Memorial Hospital donated \$4,000 to the Rural Assistance Program for Churches and Schools to help fund various health screenings in our area.
- Grow West provides a free health screening throughout Marengo County.
- Boating activity is abundant whether for fishing, water-skiing, or pleasure travel. The Demopolis Marina often hosts boaters traveling cross-country.
- Demopolis High School has several clubs which volunteer in many things; such as; ROTC has a canned food drive, helping with COTR, and ballgame cleanup. FCCLA goes to the surrounding nursing homes during the holidays bearing lots of holiday treats. DHS Football Team helps with spring and fall clean up and also helps promote our local rodeo. Baseball Team helps with the spring and fall clean up. The DHS cheerleaders sold shirts for various cancer patients and for the 2011 tornado. DECA raises money for MDA and other causes. Demopolis DTD's takes care of Missy's Garden which is a garden provided by the hospital. Anchor Club helps with Renew or Rivers in the fall. Quarter Back Club puts on an annual rodeo and also helps fund many school events.
- Industrial Development Board and the Marengo Co. Economic Development Authority receive more than \$400,000 to join north and south ends of the Park together.
- Rotary Club has charity golf tournaments and raised \$9,000, half of the funds go to Alabama Special Camp for Children and Adults and the other half stay local.
- Rotary Club also helps out with Harriet's House and also donated a clock to the city.



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- Relay for Life, Wal-Mart, and the American Cancer Society teamed up for an event to fight cancer.
- Two local doctors received the life time achievement award
- Demopolis Farmers market is located at Tractor Supply Hwy 80 W. they provide a selection of organic food, fruits, local specialties, crafts and vegetables. Hours are June 13-September 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
- Demopolis Habitat for Humanity has built a house in the past year



- The Bird House is a greenhouse operated by West Alabama Mental Health Center (WAMHC) consumers, staff and volunteers. It is located at 1300 Old Springhill Road, Demopolis, AL. Nursery quality bedding plants of all types, mums, pansies, winter cabbages at reasonable prices. The Bird House was donated to WAMHC by Mr. Jim Bird and named in honor of both Jim Bird and the late Eleanor “Sister” Bird. It provides opportunities for individuals with mental illness and mental retardation to develop employment and independent living skills. WAMHC is a 501-3c non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.
- Bigbee Humane Society along with Demopolis Animal Control picks up several stray animals and also adopts many. Bigbee also has a Thrift store to help fund their nonprofit organization which is run by many volunteers.
- Wal-Mart donates many garden essentials
- Marvin’s (local building supply store) donates light bulbs
- Tractor Supply donated cedar shaving to humane society

HERITAGE- PRESERVING YOUR PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Municipal Sector:



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- Three homes built while "cotton was king" are listed on the National Register as is the Glover Mausoleum and most of downtown Demopolis.
- On March 3, 1817, Congress passed an Act which paved the way for the settling of Demopolis by a group of political exiles who had been banished from France by King Louis XVIII following the abdication of Napoleon Bonaparte. The act granted four adjoining townships of public lands on the Tombigbee and Warrior Rivers. The French exiles assumed that olives and grapes would flourish and brought with them carefully protected shoots and stock of their native olive trees and grape vines. A band of about 150, including women and children, reached the White Bluffs (the present site of Demopolis) on July 14, 1817. However, being uncertain as to where they should settle, they proceeded up the Tombigbee to Fort Tombigbee where they found the U.S. Indian Agent, George Gaines. Colonel Gaines returned with them to the White Bluffs, and it was at his suggestion that the group selected this area for their colony. The original grant had not stipulated which four townships they should colonize, so representatives of the group returned to Washington to settle the claim while the remainder set about establishing the colony. After clearing land and building homes in the Demopolis area, it was discovered that a mistake had been made in the land grant as recorded in Washington. Unable to clear their claim, the colonists were forced to move some miles up the Warrior River. There, they formed a settlement which they called "Aigleville". "Aigleville" was symbolic of Napoleon's standard which bore the figure of an eagle. Meanwhile, the vine and olive crops were failing. Many of the settlers died of fevers and other diseases. Most of them were aristocratic military families who had become accustomed to the luxury of the courts of Paris. It is said that women went about the frontier chores in their brocaded gowns and satin slippers. The men, dressed in tri-colored cocked hats, crimson capes and insignia of rank, worked with steers and wooden plows. The life was so severe that many of those who could afford the trip returned to France when amnesty was granted by Louis Philippe. The Vine and Olive Colony, as such, had failed. However, General Lefebvre Desnouettes, Napoleon's former Aide-de-Camp and leader of this disappointing venture, organized the White Bluff Association which later purchased the Demopolis site. The Colonists who remained in the area gradually intermarried with the Americans. The area retains the French influence in the names of streets such as Desnouettes and Herbert, the County name of Marengo, and the County seat name of Linden. The scattered olive trees in Demopolis bear fruit each year to the delight of boys and birds. Marengo County, named to commemorate the battle fought by Napoleon against the Austrians at the village of Marengo on June 14, 1800, was formed by the Alabama Territorial Legislature at St. Stephens in February, 1818. Alabama did not become a state until 1819. From 1820 to 1870, King Cotton was coming into its own as the southern money crop, and the Demopolis area prospered. Between 1850 and 1860, plantation society developed to a high degree. The people were related by blood and culture. They entertained often

in gracious mansions overlooking the huge plantations. No battles were fought in Demopolis during the War Between the States, although Federal troops passed through in search of provisions. When Federal troops were in Selma, 50 miles away, breastplates were constructed in strategic positions under a plan drawn up by General Nathan Bryan Whitfield. A marker stands on West Pettus Street as a reminder. During the reconstruction era, Federal troops occupied Demopolis, using the City Hall (originally built as the Presbyterian Church) as their headquarters. In the period leading up to World War 1, the people of this entire section struggled to rebuild their economy. Despite the loss of slave labor, cotton continued to be the principal crop. The Depression of the 1930's and the ravages of the boll weevils brought home the futility of the one-crop farming system. Beef cattle and dairying replaced the dependence on cotton. Industry began to recognize the importance of the two rivers, and the lumber industry continued its march toward a prominent role. Demopolis also has a rich arts and literary heritage with such notables as playwright and author Lillian Hellman native to the city

- **Gaineswood**



- A National Historic Landmark and considered one of America's finest examples of the Greek revival style of architecture, Gaineswood was built between 1843 and 1861 by Nathan Bryan Whitfield. A cotton planter and Renaissance man of his time, Whitfield moved from North Carolina to Marengo County in 1834. In 1842 Whitfield purchased the 480-acre estate of George Strother Gaines. According to family records, a dogtrot cabin in which Gaines lived became the nucleus for Whitfield's Greek revival mansion. With the help of artists, craftsmen, and other talented persons, including enslaved persons, Whitfield enlarged and refined the home to his liking. By 1856 Whitfield decided to name the mansion Gaineswood in honor of George Strother Gaines. Gaines played a large role not only in the history of Gaineswood, but also in the history of Demopolis, the state, and in the 1830 Choctaw removal. It was Gaines who encouraged incoming French exiles in 1817 to establish their Vine and Olive Colony in what was to become Demopolis. By 1860 Whitfield had added Gaineswood's domed ceilings. With the exterior and folly landscape complete, Whitfield hired artist John Sartain to produce a steel engraving of the mansion's facade and grounds. Shown in the engraving are a hand-dug artificial lake fed by an artesian well and a summerhouse pavilion. Today visitors can tour the Greek revival structure which contains many original Whitfield family furnishings donated by descendants.

- **Bluff Hall**

- Bluff Hall was built in 1832 as a father's gift to his daughter. This Federal townhouse was modified in the Greek Revival style in the 1850's by the addition of a colonnaded portico, a large front wing and louvered gallery on a rear wing and

white paint. Displays include clothing, Empire and Victorian furniture and an exhibit on local history. Bluff Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



City Hall

- **Demopolis Public Square**



- The Demopolis Public Square is one of the oldest public squares in Alabama. It was laid out in 1819. Its handsome pavilion and benches under shade trees invite old and young alike to pause and rest. The cast iron fountain and Confederate Statue are popular picture-taking spots.

- **Glover Mausoleum**



- The Greek Revival mausoleum was built between 1841 and 1845 on a chalk bluff overlooking the Tombigbee River, southwest of Demopolis. It was built by Mary Anne Glover, second wife of Allen Glover. Allen Glover died in 1840 and was initially buried elsewhere. The bodies of Allen Glover, his first wife, and a daughter were moved to the vaults after it was completed in 1845. A Gothic Revival cast iron fence was later added around the vault in 1858. Ann Glover allowed other family members to be buried around the mausoleum in later years, and in 1882 she began to sell lots to the public. This led to the establishment of the site as Riverside Cemetery. The fence has experienced considerable vandalism in more recent years and has been largely removed. The mausoleum was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The mausoleum contains burial vaults for thirty people. There are fifteen vaults on the east and west sides, stacked five horizontally and three vertically. It is a square brick structure, plastered over with smooth stucco and scored to give the appearance of ashlar. A porch surrounds the vaults on all four sides, with solid masonry corners and openings on each side supported by a span of three cast iron columns. The low-pitched masonry roof is topped by a granite orb

and cross. This mausoleum is located at the back side of Riverside Cemetery that's on the southwest side of Demopolis; AL. GPS coordinates of the mausoleum are N32.515194, W87.849167.

- **Riverside Cemetery**

- The Riverside Cemetery, in Demopolis, Alabama is located on a chalk cliff overlooking the beautiful Tombigbee River. The bodies of Allen Glover, his first wife, and a daughter were moved to the Glover mausoleum after it was completed in 1845. A Gothic Revival cast iron fence was later added around the vault in 1858. Ann Glover allowed other family members to be buried around the mausoleum in later years, and in 1882 she began to sell lots to the public. This led to the establishment of the site as Riverside Cemetery. The cemetery also contains family plots for other earlier Demopolis families such as the Whitfield's and Lyon
- Memorial Gardens Contributed by Carol Wood. Donated by Ralph Lewis

The historic Rooster Hall at Demopolis, AL (built 1843)

The building was built in 1843 to serve as the Presbyterian Church. It served in that role until the end of the Civil War. At that time it was confiscated by federal troops as their headquarters. It served as the Marengo County Courthouse through Reconstruction. The county seat returned to Linden in 1869 and the building was purchased by the City of Demopolis from the Presbyterian Church. In 1876 the city leased the building to the Demopolis Opera Association. The Association rehabilitated the building for live performances and public speaking events. The Opera House featured mostly local talent but also featured talents from New York and New Orleans for special performances. The Opera House closed its doors in 1902. The building then served as city hall and then as the Demopolis fire hall. It has recently been renovated and is a public meeting place for the City of Demopolis



- **Lyon Hall**



- The Lyon Hall was built in 1853 for George Gaines Lyon and wife, Anne Glover Lyon. George Lyon was a local attorney and the nephew of the Bluff Hall owner, Francis Strother Lyon, who is also a prominent politician and lawyer in the state. The Lyon Hall is a Greek revival, two-story, wooden frame mansion. It is currently operated by

the Marengo County Historical Society, who offers tours and rentals for the place. It was also added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974

Monuments



URBAN FORESTRY

Ordinances:

Minimum Landscape Requirements

Purpose of this section is to protect and enhance the ecological and aesthetic environments of the City of Demopolis; provide shade and natural cooling; control the erosion of soil and storm water runoff; provide enhanced buffers; protect adjacent land and uses from noise and glare; encourage the most appropriate use of land and responsible land ethic; and contribute to property values.

Application of Section

- A. Landscaping requirements as set forth in Article V, Section 508 of this Ordinance shall become applicable to each building site at the time an application for each building permit is made in the R-4, R-5, M, O-I, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-LI, I-1, I-2 and PUD zoning districts; and to each commercial site where the owner/developer undertakes a project that increases the square footage of the building by a cumulative total of twenty-five (25) percent or more. In some cases if the planting space is small and becomes an issue, allow these businesses to purchase trees and the city will plant and maintain them on city right-of-way, adjacent to the owner's property.
- B. The City of Demopolis Horticulturist will be available to assist in the design phases of the project and to review initial and final plans.
- C. All landscape installation must be completed before the development is opened to the public. The City Horticulturist must be notified to give compliance or noncompliance to landscaped areas before opening. The City Horticulturist shall give a decision of compliance or noncompliance within seven (7) working days.

508.1 **Landscape Plan Approval.**

A landscape plan shall be submitted for approval by the City Horticulturist at the time that an application for a Building Permit is made on any land where the landscaping requirements of this Section are applicable. The landscape plan shall include:

- A. Date, scale, north arrow, title, and name of owner.
- B. Approximate location of existing boundary lines and dimensions of the building site.
- C. Location, species, and size of existing trees and other vegetation applicant propose to remain on site and have made part of the landscape development. This does not apply to masses of trees outside of the construction area.
- D. The approximate center line of all existing water-courses; the approximate location of significant drainage features; and the location and size of existing and proposed streets and alleys, existing and proposed utility easements on or adjacent to the building site, and existing and proposed sidewalks adjacent to streets.
- E. The location and size of proposed landscape areas, in square feet.
- F. The location, number, size, and name of proposed landscape material.
- G. Statistics verifying that the minimum percentage of landscape required under this Section will be met.
- H. The locations, species, and DBH of existing native trees indicating those to be retained, and those native trees to be removed, and whether they are to be counted as part of the landscaping requirements. The location and dimensions of the proposed landscape areas within the parking area(s) including a description and location of new trees and plant materials to be placed within the landscape area.
- I. An indication, using written or graphic information, of how the applicant plans to protect from damage existing trees and other vegetation which are proposed to be retained during construction.
- J. The proposed irrigation type and design, if required.
- K. Installation process for all landscaped material.
- L. Certification that the landscape plan has been prepared or reviewed by one of the following: a registered landscape architect, professional engineer, architect, landscape designer, full time builder designer, a qualified nurseryman, the County Agent, or any Governmental Agency with horticulture experience, and that it satisfies all purposes, objectives, and requirements of this Section.
- M. Flagging and barrier system as covered in Section 5 (h).
- N. Permanent utility facility locations.

Landscaping Requirements

508.4 A. Landscaping Percentage Requirements With the exception of industrial sites, any building site meeting the requirements of this section shall be landscaped. Landscaping materials shall cover twelve (12) percent of the total building site as determined first by calculating the square footage of the unimproved site, then subtracting the total square footage of the building area, which is defined as the total square footage of all structures under roof. At least sixty (60) percent of the landscape requirements shall be located in the front setback defined as the area between the property line and the building wall(s) facing

the public right-of-way. If the application of the percentage creates a fraction, the result as expressed in numbers shall be rounded off to the next highest whole number.

Tree Protection Requirements

- 509.1 Application of Section. The requirements of this section shall apply to all land, other than public rights-of-way, located within the corporate city limits of the City of Demopolis, except R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-6 zoning districts and lots where a bona fide agricultural or forestry operation exists.
- 509.2 Permit. Any person wishing to remove or relocate a native tree shall, under the provisions of this Section, make written application with the City of Demopolis Beautification Commission, which applications shall include a Landscape Plan as provided in Section 508 of this Ordinance, unless waived by the City Horticulturist. Upon paying an administrative application fee of ten (10) dollars to cover the costs of researching and processing the application, the application and Plan shall be stamped with the date and time. All proceeds from the application fee shall be earmarked for the use of the administration of this section.
- 509.3 Removal of Public Trees. No tree shall be removed from public rights-of-way without consent of the City Horticulturist. This shall not apply to trees with a DBH of four and one half (4 ½) inches or less. Any other trees must be made known to the City Horticulturist for his/her permission to remove. No tree of any size shall be removed from public right of way, unless written permission has been granted by the City Horticulturist,
- 509.4 Penalties. Any person, firm, or corporation violating or failing to comply with this ordinance shall be subject to a fine up to one hundred (100) dollars per day per violation for each day said violation remains uncorrected. Proceeds of fines shall be earmarked for buying and planting of plants in the City of Demopolis. Enforcement of this ordinance shall be by Issuance of Complaint.
- 509.5 Interference with The City Horticulturist. No person shall hinder, prevent, delay, or interfere with the City Horticulturist, the Demopolis Beautification Commission, or any other duly authorized individual, while engaged in carrying out the execution or enforcement of this Ordinance; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed as an attempt to prohibit the pursuit of any remedy, legal or equitable, in any court or competent jurisdiction for the protection of property rights by the owner or any property within the municipality.
- 509.6 Non-applicability of Ordinance to Land and Rights Used for Facilities of Public Utilities. Nothing herein shall affect or deteriorate in any way the rights of, or exercise by, any public utility of its present and future acquired rights, to clear (and keep clear) trees and other growth from lands utilized, or to be utilized, for electric or communication facilities of any type, or dangerous trees adjacent thereto whether such rights were acquired by permits, easements, agreements, deeds, documents, or otherwise from landowners, or were acquired by condemnation, franchise or the operation of State law. The utility company shall cooperate with the City Horticulturist when clearing or pruning of the rights-of-way is exercised.
- 509.7 Appeal of Grant or Denial of Permit. Appeals of either a grant or denial of permits pursuant to this Section 509 shall be made to the Board of Adjustment and may be taken by the applicant or by any officer, department or board of the City affected by any decision of the City Horticulturist with respect to the administration or enforcement of this Section 509. All such appeals shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment shall have the power to grant permits upon a showing by the

applicant by clear and convincing evidence that the applicant will suffer extreme and extraordinary hardship. All appeals from the Board of Adjustment shall be to the Circuit Court of Marengo County and may be brought by any of the persons listed above. Before taking an appeal before the Board of Adjustment, it is recommended that the applicant bring the matter before the Beautification Commission for their insight and possibly recommendations on resolving the issues dealing with the denial of a permit.

Municipal Sector:

- Demopolis has been a member of Tree City USA for 27 years.
- City of Demopolis partnered with Alabama Forestry Commission gave out trees to residents and business owners such as Bald Cypress, Black Gum, Crape Myrtle, Overcup Oak, and Japanese Maple, just to name a few, at the City Landing.
- Horticulture celebrates Arbor Day annually.
- Anyone performing commercial tree work must become certified within the city.
- Horticultural Department maintains trees along the city's public streets for trees that are difficult to maintain the horticulturist then must make the decision.
- Our local urban forester is located downtown if she is needed.
- We are a Member of Alabama Urban Forester Association (AUFA.)

PRIVATE PROPERTIES/ CITIZENS

- Demopolis has 2 local forestry businesses Advantage Forestry and Sandy Creek Forestry

LANDSCAPE AREAS-DESIGN, TREE, SHRUB, AND PERENIAL PLANTINGS

Municipal Sector:

City of Demopolis has 1 Horticulturist and 5 laborers with a budget of \$230,000

Areas maintained on a daily basis: George Franks Field, City Landing, Civic Center, Confederate monument, City Hall, Post Office, Library, Board of Education, all 4 schools, East and West entrance sign, Hospital, triangles on 80, Rooster Hall, College, Westside median, and Water Department.

Horticultural department has ordered up to 14,000 plugs from BALL SEED and raised them. We currently plug 24 bloom master 14in pots, 12 bloom master square planters, 24 regular 14in hanging baskets, 24 30x36in concrete planters and 24 small concrete planters throughout the city.

Demopolis also offers help to our surround areas; Linden, Greensboro, Eutaw, and Faunsdale.

Guiding Principles:

- Using local products and compost
- Right plant at right place

- No insecticides used in garden
- Minimum herbicide used in the gardens none within 100ft. of water, picnic and playground areas.
- Pine straw is used in large beds and donated mulch from Rock Tenn. On small annuals
- Train and work with volunteers to promote community awareness and involvement.
- Mass ground cover to reduce the amount of grass, weeding and mulching.

Commercial Sector:

Chamber of Commerce currently has the Pride Award that is put out monthly.

Currently the Horticulture Department will be giving out 6 Demopolis in Bloom Awards, 2 Best Bloomin Business, Churches in Bloom, Beautiful Vegetable Garden, 2 Best Bloomin Home.

Private Properties/ Citizens:

Demopolis offers the Master Gardeners Program and Garden Club. Many private citizens in Demopolis love plants and flowers and spend an inordinate amount of time enjoying and caring for their beloved floral displays.

TURF AND GROUND COVER AREAS-PARKS, LANDSCAPING & RECREATIONS, AREAS

Municipal Sector:

The Demopolis Sports-Plex is a 299 acre park located one mile south of Highway 80 just off Highway 43 South. The park features three lighted, four-field youth and adult baseball/softball complexes with concession/restroom facilities, 6 soccer/multi-use fields (5 lighted), a public pond for fishing, a picnic pavilion with playground, one and a half-mile walking trail, an 18 hole golf course including pro shop, putting green, and driving range, and offices and equipment shops for the Parks and Recreation Department. Our newest addition to the Sports-Plex is the Demopolis University Center. Classes are offered through Alabama Southern Community College in a state of the art academics building. This is a collaborative effort between Alabama Southern Community College, the University of West Alabama, the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

- **6 Neighborhood Parks**
 - Eastern Hills Park and Pavilion – located in the Eastern Hills subdivision at the intersection of Eastern Circle and Reed Drive
 - Woodland Court Park – located in Oak Park on Woodland Court
 - Whitfield Park and Pavilion – located at the corner of W. Jackson Street and S. Glover Avenue
 - River Park/Kiwanis Playground – located at the corner of North Main Avenue and W. Pearl Street
 - Frisco Vista Park – located in New Quarters on B Street
 - Front & Washington Park – located at the corner of N. Front Avenue and E. Washington Street



- **The Ravine Golf Course**

Hours of operation: 8 AM - 6 PM (April - October) 8 AM - 5 PM (November - March).

Hours fluctuate due to inclement weather. Open 7 days a week

Fees include cart.

- 18 Hole Golf Course
- Well stocked Pro Shop
- Concessions Available

- **Hunting & Fishing**

- Located near Demopolis, AL, at the confluence of the Black Warrior and Tombigbee River, Demopolis Lake is the largest lake in the Black Warrior-Tombigbee system. The lake extends 48 miles upriver on the Black Warrior and 53 miles up the Tombigbee and covers 10,000 acres. There is also a large, full service marina at Demopolis. The region around Demopolis Lake provides excellent hunting. The Corps manages 1400 acres for public hunting and leases another 6400 acres to the Alabama Department of Conservation for a state wildlife management area. Wildlife and forest management programs have enhanced the habitat in these areas and game is plentiful. Permits are required to hunt in.

- **Demopolis Community Archery Park**

- Open year round offering standard archery targets at various distances, a variety of 3D animal targets and a shooting tower are sure to hone your skills with the bow and arrow. Local archery clubs will have demonstrations periodically and shooting competitions. Facility is located adjacent to Webb Field at the Sports-Plex.





Commercial Sector:

The Demopolis Country Club

The Demopolis Country Club was originally organized in 1958, the clubhouse has seen *several* additions and improvements through the years. Our 18 hole course plays through gentle elevation changes, wooded areas and over and around water. Water hazards come into play on 6 holes and a total of 22 bunkers guard both fairway landing areas as well as the push up greens. Our amenities include a driving range, chipping green w/bunker and a 9 hole putting green to warm up with prior to play. Whether you are playing in a tournament or taking advantage of a round through a reciprocal club, we have a pool with a diving board two hard surface and two new Rubico tennis courts for your spouse or kids to take advantage of during your round.

Demopolis Yacht Basin MILE 216.7 OF THE TENN-TOM WATERWAY

Channel 16 Monitored We welcome live-aboard and transients. They are also in the process of building a new marina called Kingfisher.

BEST IDEA

Our greenhouses are made out of recycled trampolines! When we first changed locations we had no way of getting plants without driving 2 hours to a nursery. So we purchased a used greenhouse 24x50 the first year. It wasn't big enough so we started recycling trampolines to make 2 new ones. We raise 14,000 plants spring and fall to plant throughout the city and have been since 2008.

