

THE CITY OF
Oxford

WHERE LOCAL CHARM, AREA EVENTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES
BRING COMMUNITY TO LIFE.

TEXT BY KATHARINE ARMBRESTER



Blending country charm with a bustling city center, the city of Oxford is nestled amid scenic views and the nearby Cheaha Mountain, the highest point in Alabama. There are few cities where you can enjoy nature while exploring a busy downtown area but in Oxford's revitalized Main Street visitors enjoy thriving businesses along with nature.

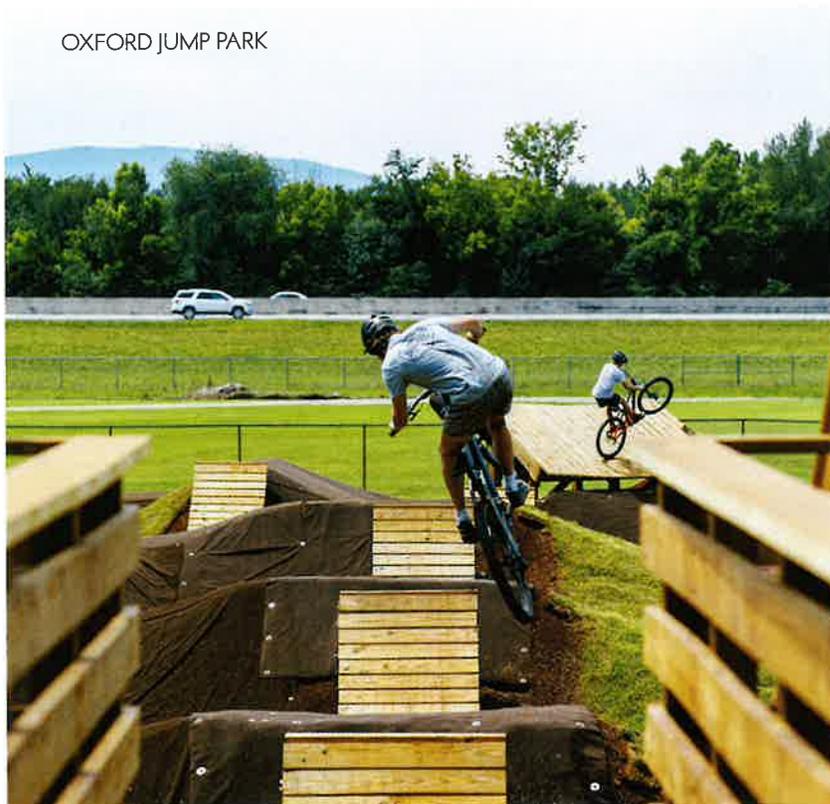
Oxford is home to thriving restaurants that offer classic southern flavors as well as European-inspired delicacies. Ideally located on Choccolocco Street, Hubbard's Off Main offers a relaxed atmosphere with its savory grilled dishes, including award-winning burgers. Cutter's Pizzeria is known as the home of the 5 pound pie-style pizza. "I've had it and it's delicious," says Stacy Booth, director of marketing for the city of Oxford. She reveals the pizza has two layers of dough and two layers of cheese, which should please all pizza lovers—just save room for Cutter's strawberry pizza for dessert.

A newer addition to Historic Main Street Oxford is Le Coin des Artistes, French for "The Corner of Artists." Since opening in 2023, the veteran, minority and female-owned bistro has offered coffee, cocktails and exquisitely decorated cupcakes. When Booth visits the popular bistro, she enjoys viewing the colorful artwork along with her beignets and she also likes to stop by Longleaf Books & Bindery a stone's throw away.

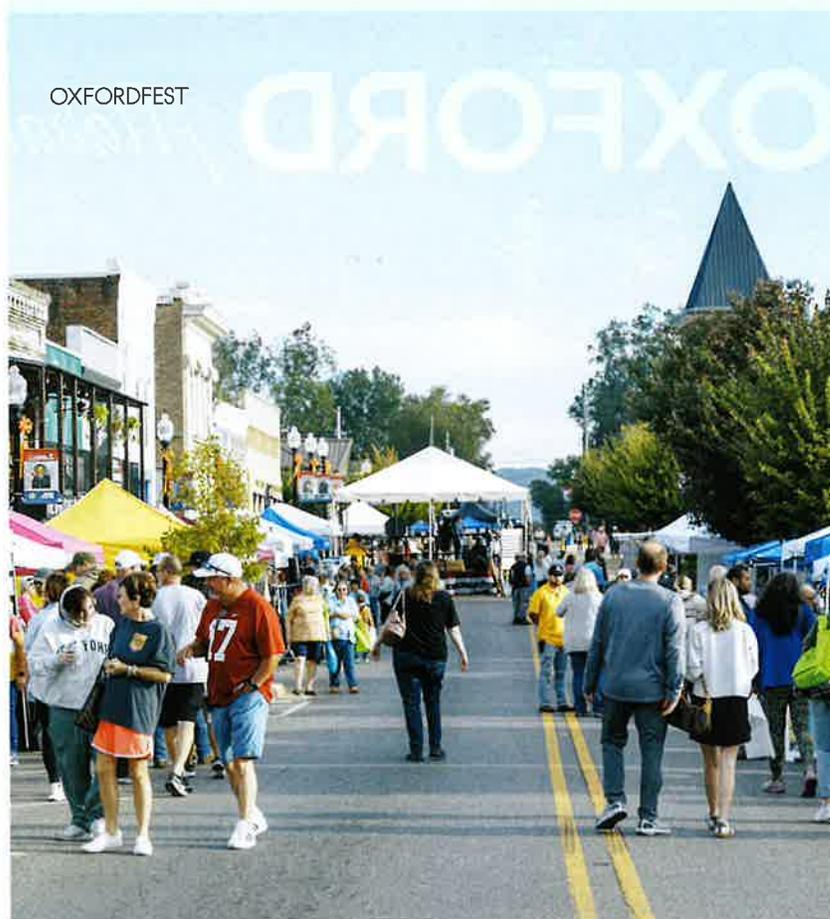
"I love our downtown bookstore—it's a true hidden gem," Booth says. "The owner knows her inventory so well and always helps me discover the perfect book." Talladega may bring many hundreds of racing fans to the area twice a year but literature and tempting desserts in close proximity will effortlessly please visitors to Oxford who want to escape the noisy crowds.

"The district often surprises both visitors and longtime residents with its charm and variety," says Hunter Gentry, the director of Historic Main Street

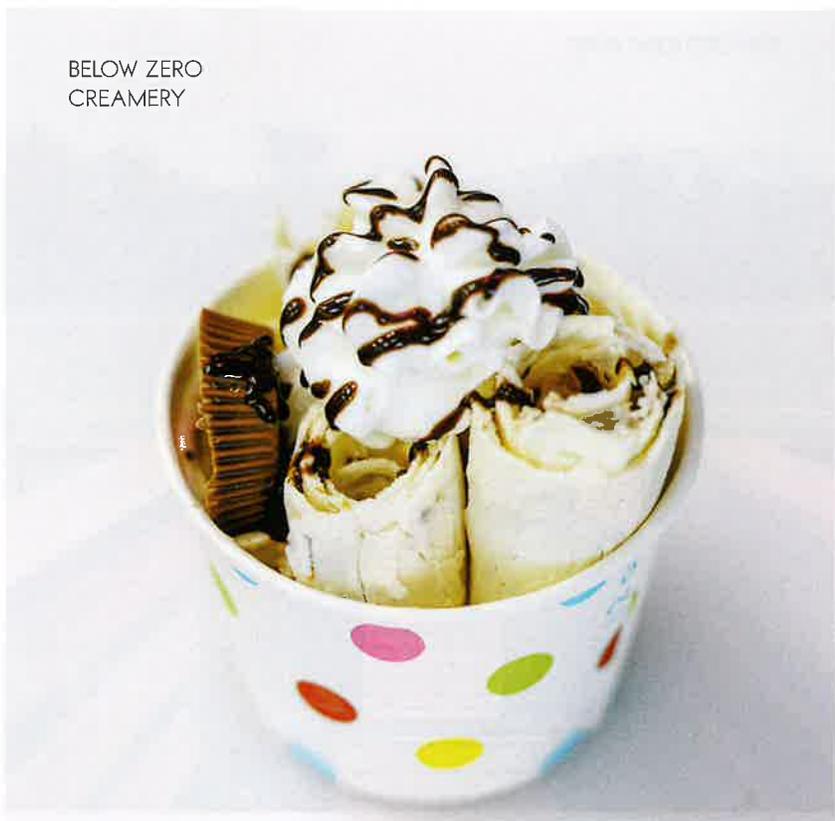
OXFORD JUMP PARK



OXFORDFEST



BELOW ZERO
CREAMERY

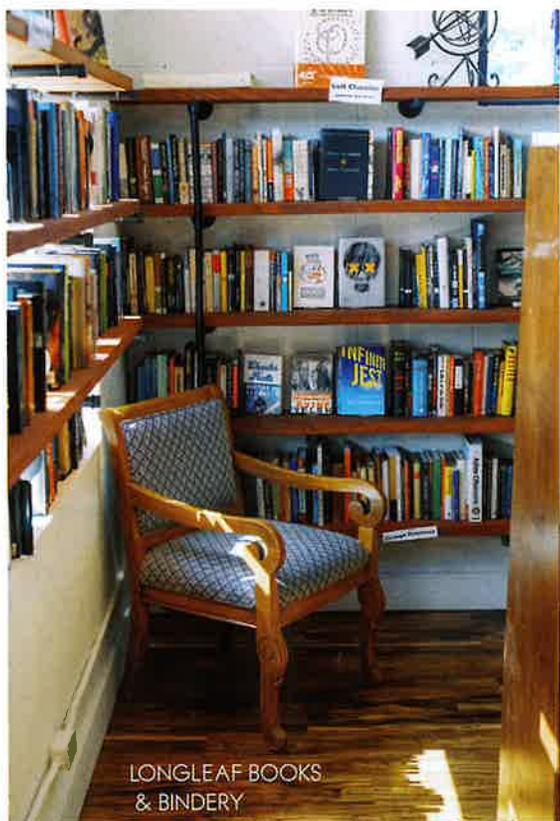


Oxford. He explains the part of his city's enduring appeal is the combination of an eclectic array of shops and restaurants in a walkable historic setting.

"Oxford's uniqueness lies in both its accessibility and its ambition," Gentry continues. "Situated at the crossroads of major transportation routes including Interstate 20, Alabama Highway 21, U.S. Highway 78 and U.S. Highway 431, Oxford serves as a gateway for travelers while remaining a destination in its own right."

Two of the city's most popular destinations are Choccolocco Park and the Oxford Performing Arts Center. Gentry explains that the former has become a premier sports tourism facility and the park hosts one of the city's most popular annual events—the Mardi Gras-themed 5K run. "The course is a beautiful, flat run through the park alongside the creek," Booth says of the family-friendly event. "It's festive, fun and a great way to experience one of Oxford's prettiest

A large promotional banner for Oxford, Alabama. The word "OXFORD" is written in large, bold, white capital letters on the left. To its right, the phrase "Alabama at its best" is written in a white, elegant script font. The background of the banner is a collage of six photographs: a live band performing on a stage with an audience in the foreground; a woman in a red dress playing a piano; a large firework exploding in the night sky; a scenic view of a green golf course with trees and a blue sky; two children riding bicycles decorated with streamers; and a group of people in orange shirts cheering and holding up a trophy. At the bottom of the banner, a black bar contains the text "ARTS • ENTERTAINMENT • RECREATION • INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS • FIRST RESPONDERS EDUCATION • WORK FORCE • QUALITY OF LIFE • SHOPPING AND DINING • COMMUNITY" in white, followed by the website "WWW.OXFORDAL.GOV" in yellow.



LONGLEAF BOOKS
& BINDERY



CHOCOLOCCO PARK



SIMMONS PARK



OXFORD PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER



outdoor spaces.”

Like Choccolocco Park, the Oxford Performing Arts Center draws visitors from across the state. The state-of-the-art 1,200-seat theatre presents more than 130 events every year, presenting everything from local talent to touring Broadway shows. Popular concert acts in recent years have included The Beach Boys, Martina McBride, Celtic Women and Patti LaBelle.

“Over the past decade, the city has intentionally positioned itself as northeast Alabama’s hub for arts, entertainment and recreation,” Gentry says. With the upcoming Freedom Festival on July 4 and Oxfordfest, an arts and crafts festival which takes place every first Saturday in October, foot traffic to Main Street will not slow down anytime soon. Be prepared to visit Oxford repeatedly, since there will always be another concert to see—and more beignets. For more information, visit oxfordal.gov.



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OXFORD, ALABAMA



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