



Davis Cemetery District History Timeline

Year:	Description:
1850	Land purchased by Col. Joseph B. Chiles.
1855	First known burial, J. H. Martin; Plot D-264; DOD 01/20/1855
1861	"Graveyard fence" referenced in description of property boundaries
1874	One acre given to Catholic Church by Mrs. I. S. Chiles
1876	Burial of Nancy Dew, b 4/17/1796; Plot G-112; Earliest birth date interred
1880	Deed shows one acre of land, S. & Davisville Cemetery
1900	Cemetery Association formed – owner W. D. Chiles deeded unspecified amount of land to cemetery
1901	Eighty palm and cypress trees planted, water tank repaired, new windmill donated by William H. Marden
1922	Davis Cemetery District formed; Trustees: J. A. Harby, Virginia Sanders (Dixon), and Hattie Weber
Prior to 1930	There were 363 marked graves which read as a historical "Who is Who" of Davis. Most wooden grave markers were destroyed by the ravages of vandals and grassfires, leaving seventy-two graves, thought to include many Chinese settlers, now recorded as "unknown."
1958	Catholic Diocese deeds three acres to District, swale filled in during early 1960's, twenty acres purchased from George Chiles.
1966	Office building and corporation yard constructed.
1967	First Superintendent Vincent C. Forcella was hired.
1968 – 1970	Old cemetery restored, pump house removed, new cemetery laid out, irrigation system, trees and turf added.
1970	Original cemetery gate permanently closed.
Mid-1970's	New south entrance (East 8th St.), retaining wall constructed, closed old south entrance.
1984	A new burial area opened, south of the office building which is now referred to as North/South lawn due to its plot numbering.
1985	Davis Cemetery name "Historical Site" by Davis City Council.
1992	Severe windstorm down numerous trees and fences.
2000	ADA compliant restroom and remodeling of office.
2006	Certified as a Wildlife Habitat.
2006	First hybrid green burial performed; Jalal Toofan, plot ND-252.

2007	Solar panels were installed to help defray rising power costs.
2009	Natural Swale restored with native 40,000 plants and grasses.
2010	Gallery 1855 Fine art gallery opened.
2012	Arboretum Level II designation obtained.
2013	West Sacramento and Clarksburg joined the Davis Cemetery District.
2015	Grand opening of the hill area and launch of Arboretum.
2016	Memorial fountain and above ground niche walls opened.
2018	Administrative staff restructured to better support the mission of the District.
2020	COVID-19 pandemic hits, triggering a statewide emergency shutdown. The District developed a detailed response plan, ensuring service could continue.
2021	Rose garden installed, providing new above ground niche interment options.
2024	COVID-19 permanent memorial opened, which is believed to be the first permanent memorial in California.
2025	The cremation garden opened, offering in-ground cremation interments with a raised monument.