

Nine Periods of Davis History

Decade	Decade-start Population (in thousands)/square miles	Period	Years	Number of Years	Key Features
1860s	0.0/0.0	Before Davisville/Davis			
		1. Expectant	1868-71	4	People expectantly rush to a new future.
1870s	0.5/0.4	2. Farming	1872-90	19	Population and construction plateau. Dry crops, grain shipping, and farm machinery important in the local economy
1880s	0.6/0.4				
1890s	.07/0.4	3. Cultivating	1891-1904	14	Plateau continued. Cultivated and irrigated agriculture expand, particularly almonds
1900s	0.8/0.4	4. Restarting	1905-16	12	A successful campaign to be the site of the University of California Experimental Farm rejuvenated the stagnant town.
1910s	0.8/0.4				
1920s	1.0/0.4	5. Urbanizing	1917-29	13	Responding to state government prodding, urban amenities were installed. These included a water and sewage system, street lighting, and street paving. Town planning in the form of zoning started.
1930s	1.2/0.4	6. Depression	1930-45	16	The worldwide economic depression also hit Davis. Ironically, New Deal programs financed many local improvements, including a municipal building and the first City park. At the end of World War II, local politics continued to be highly consensual with much the same men elected term after term.
1940s	1.7/0.4				
1950s	3.6/1.1	7. Exploding	1946-71	26	Like many other places in California, Davis exploded in population and construction. The now UC Davis general campus was the major generator of growth. Unlike many other cities, Davis leaders resisted large peripheral shopping centers and adopted polices to keep the "core area" the center of the city.
1960s	8.9/2.0				
1970s	23.5/6.2	8. Progressive	1972-89	18	Unsettled by the rate of growth and its form, the City election of 1972 resulted in a "progressive" government seeking to slow growth and focus on the relation of growth and the environment. A range of policies so attuned was adopted. Davis developed a national image as environmentally progressive.
1980s	36.6/6.9				
1990s	46.3/8.6	9. Contested	1990---	15+	Over the progressive period, "moderate" versus "progressive" political tendencies crystallized. As growth continued, the two tendencies were back-and-forth in control of the City Council and, therefore, the rate of growth. Davis became a rare example of a city with real politics and authentic contests over the shape of the future.
2000s	60.3/9.9				