Davis, California, was founded in 1868 and is located 15 miles from Sacramento. The city was named for Jerome C. Davis, a prominent local farmer. The University of California established a farm school in Davis in 1909, which has since developed into the University of California–Davis and is a major focus of the city. With more than 100 miles of paved bike paths, Davis is considered the most bicycle friendly small city in America.

Located in Davis, the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognizing American competitive cyclists and contributors to the sport, preserving the history of American cycling, and encouraging all levels of cycling.

The Davis Musical Theater Company is a full-time, year-round, musical theater company.

The Robert and Margaret Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts on the University’s campus presents a diverse program of artists and thinkers in public performances.

Neighborhoods

Many of the properties in downtown Davis, which is known as the Core, are cottages that date from the 1910s through the 1930s. Other neighborhoods in the central part of the city feature mid-century modern homes built in the 1950s and 1960s and are located on streets named for various colleges. West of downtown, the College Park neighborhood offers older homes in a variety of architectural styles, including Tudor, Mediterranean, Colonial, and California bungalow, that are situated on landscaped lots. This neighborhood was developed about 70 years ago to recruit staff and faculty to the university, which is located nearby, and is the site of the UC Davis Chancellor’s residence. Aggie Village is another housing development designed to provide housing for UC Davis faculty and staff. West Village, a new mixed-use UC Davis community, is under construction to accommodate more faculty, staff, and student housing.

Aspen is primarily a residential neighborhood comprised of larger custom and semi-custom homes on streets with numerous cul-de-sacs that border either a greenbelt or the West Davis Pond. The majority of Evergreen homes feature a Mediterranean-style exterior with stucco walls and tile roofs. Built in the 1970s and 1980s, the Village Homes subdivision was encouraged to develop the sense of community and conservation of energy and natural resources. Fruit and nut trees and vineyards form a large element of the landscaping, which also includes two big parks, extensive greenbelts with pedestrian/bike paths, and two large common gardening areas. Most streets are narrow and curving, and, in an attempt to limit automobile use, most homes were built without garages.

The Cowell Park neighborhood features many modern homes built during the 1970s and early 1980s. It is probably best known for its extensive, lush greenbelt that connects a series of parks, including Cowell and Northstar parks. While Spanish street names are found in Corvell Park, streets in Northstar are all named for birds. Northstar homes were built in the late 1980s and early 1990s and range in size and style, from semi-custom and custom contemporary to traditional and surrounded by extensive landscaping. Many of the homes in the large Wildhorse community developed in the 2000s offer views of the Wildhorse Golf Course. This neighborhood has some custom and semi-custom properties.

Mace Ranch is a large master-planned community that was built in the mid-to-late 1990s with neighborhoods that stretch beyond the city limits.

Parks and Recreation

Davis maintains 32 neighborhood and community parks and an extensive system of greenbelts. Park amenities include 43 play areas; 33 tennis courts; horse shoe pits; disc golf; basketball courts; archery; a fishing pond; soccer, baseball, and softball fields; batting cages; dog areas; volleyball courts; a rock climbing wall; exercise courses; roller and street hockey rinks; amphitheaters; a skate park; a carousel; and 2 pool complexes.

Community Park features a skate park backstop, soccer field, lighted softball field, T-ball field, volleyball posts and sand volleyball court, playgrounds, and an off-leash dog park.

Playsfield Park offers a lighted baseball field and batting cages, lighted basketball courts, lighted soccer fields, lighted softball fields, a covered playground, and a sand volleyball court.

Northstar Park contains two ponds—one with observation decks for birdwatching and the other lined with yellow-flowering irises. The park also has an interpretive nature trail, large soccer field, and playgrounds. The nearby Northstar Pocket Park also has a play structure.

Friends of West Pond have cultivated a butterfly and hummingbird garden. The park also has two swimming pools, playing fields, playgrounds, and unique sculptures. The pond is considered an enhanced, wetland, wildlife habitat.

The UC Davis Arboretum contains 100 acres of beautiful gardens, documented plant collections for teaching and research, and exhibits and demonstration plantings to teach sustainable gardening.

Davis’s Community Gardens consists of rentable plots, a Garden Center, Herb Plot, Perennial Plot, and Donation Garden.

The Davis Farmers Market is held twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Central Park.

Education

Davis Joint Unified School District educates 8,450 students at 9 elementary schools, 3 junior high schools, a senior high school, and a continuation high school.

The University of California, Davis, has transformed from its origins as a farm school into a research university, which continues to offer agricultural education with specialties in viticulture and enology. The UC Davis School of Medicine is located in nearby Sacramento.

Community college classes are available at the Sacramento City College Davis Center, operated by the Los Rios Community College District.

Health Care

Sutter Davis Hospital is a 48-bed hospital serving residents of Davis, Dixon, Winters, Woodland, West Sacramento, Vacaville, and rural communities throughout Yolo and Eastern Solano counties.

Other hospitals, including UC Davis Medical Center and UC Davis Children’s Hospital, are located in Sacramento.

City Stats

Photograph courtesy of Yolo County Visitors Bureau.