



COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

Q2 • 2026



What's New

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Closure Policies

Understanding
District Fees

Glass Item Policy

Summer Heat Safety

2027 Centennial

When Weather Affects Cemetery Access: Keeping Everyone Safe

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District is committed to keeping the cemetery open and accessible whenever possible. However, there are times when weather conditions create safety concerns that require the District to temporarily close the cemetery or restrict access to the grounds. In the Coachella Valley, high winds, particularly during the spring months, are one of the most common weather-related concerns. These windy conditions can create unique safety hazards, including fallen branches, uprooted trees, unsecured memorial items, umbrellas, and other loose objects that may endanger visitors and staff.

To help reduce safety risks, the District's trees are professionally pruned, checked, and maintained throughout the year. Even with regular maintenance, healthy trees can lose branches during extreme wind events, and loose objects may become airborne. When conditions create a safety risk, the District may temporarily close the cemetery until it is safe to reopen.

The District's Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Policy provides guidance for how these decisions are made. Using information from the National Weather Service, the District evaluates conditions to determine the appropriate response. Depending on the severity of the weather, the District may restrict certain items, relocate services away from large trees or overhead hazards, cancel or reschedule services, or temporarily close the cemetery and District offices to public access.

These decisions are never made lightly. The District understands that families visit the cemetery for deeply personal reasons, and that scheduled services are important and time-sensitive. Temporary closures are implemented only when necessary to protect the safety of visitors, families, funeral professionals, and staff. When conditions improve, the District works to reopen the cemetery as quickly as it is safe to do so.

The District appreciates the community's patience and understanding whenever temporary weather-related closures are necessary. Every decision is made with one priority in mind: protecting the safety of everyone who visits and works at the cemetery.

For the latest weather alerts, closures, and District updates, visit cvpcd.org or follow the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District on Facebook at facebook.com/CVPCD.



How the District Sets Fair and Transparent Fees

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District recently completed a comprehensive fee study as part of its ongoing effort to ensure that District fees are fair, transparent, and legally supportable. A fee study is a common tool used by public agencies to evaluate the actual cost of providing services and to determine whether existing fees reasonably align with those costs. District policy adopted by the Board of Trustees requires District staff to conduct a fee study no less than once every three (3) years.

Unlike taxes, which help fund general government services, fees are charged only to those who choose to use a specific service. Under California law, those fees must be reasonably related to the cost of providing that service. A fee study helps the District meet that requirement by reviewing staffing, operations, maintenance, equipment, capital needs, and long-term financial planning.

Conducting regular fee studies benefits both the District and the public. It helps ensure that fees are based on documented costs rather than estimates or outdated assumptions, promotes responsible financial planning, and supports compliance with state law. It also helps ensure that the cost of providing individual services is paid by those who use them rather than being subsidized by the broader community.



The District's 2026 Fee Study reviewed operational and labor costs, property and market-based fees, non-resident fees, and the District's long-term financial needs. The findings help guide future fee recommendations while supporting the District's ability to provide quality services in a financially responsible manner.

The complete **2026 Fee Study Findings** are available on the District's website for anyone interested in learning more about the process and the information used to evaluate District fees.

View the full 2026 Fee Study Findings here:
www.coachellavalleycemeterydistrict.gov/files/7709f62f0/2026+Fee+Study+Findings.pdf

Understanding Ground Policies: Why Glass Items Are Not Permitted

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District understands that flowers, vases, and other memorial items are meaningful ways to honor and remember loved ones. To help protect visitors, families, and District staff, glass items are not permitted on cemetery grounds, even when they are secured or intended to remain in place. In an outdoor cemetery environment, glass can easily break due to high winds, high temperatures, maintenance activities, or accidental contact. Once broken, glass fragments can be difficult to see and remove from grass and landscaped areas, creating risks for visitors, maintenance crews, and wildlife. Even small pieces of glass can cause injuries or damage equipment used to care for the cemetery grounds. Visitors are encouraged to choose non-glass alternatives when placing flowers or other memorial decorations.

The District appreciates the community's cooperation with this policy, which helps maintain a safe, respectful, and accessible cemetery for everyone. To learn more about our policies, please scan the QR code or visit www.coachellavalleycemeterydistrict.gov/regulations.



Beat the Heat: Summer Reminders for Cemetery Visitors

As summer temperatures rise across the Coachella Valley, planning ahead can help make visits to the cemetery safer and more comfortable.

The cemetery offers natural shade throughout the grounds, with approximately 400 trees providing shaded areas. Even so, visitors are encouraged to bring water, stay hydrated, wear sunscreen and other sun protection, and use an umbrella or other portable shade if needed.



High temperatures can affect people quickly, especially during extended periods outdoors. Whenever possible, consider visiting earlier in the morning or later in the evening as temperatures are typically cooler, and limit time spent in direct sunlight.

To help accommodate summer visitation, the District extends cemetery visiting hours during the hottest months of the year. Cemetery grounds remain open until 8:00 p.m. through July and 7:30 p.m. through August, giving visitors more flexibility to plan their visits during the cooler parts of the day.

Remember to take extreme heat seriously, especially when visiting the cemetery or spending time outdoors elsewhere in the Coachella Valley. If you plan to be outside for an extended period, consider bringing a companion, letting someone know where you'll be, and taking breaks in the shade. If you experience dizziness, nausea, excessive fatigue, confusion, or other signs of heat illness, move to a cooler location immediately and seek medical attention if symptoms persist or worsen.

Looking Ahead to our Centennial

As we prepare to celebrate 100 years of serving the Coachella Valley, we'll be sharing stories throughout the coming year that reflect on the District's history, the people who helped shape it, and the traditions that continue today.

We're proud to begin this journey with our recent CV Independent feature, Moments that Live On in the Coachella Valley, highlighting the meaningful role the District has played in the lives of generations of families.

Read the full article at cvindependent.com/2026/06/moments-that-live-on-in-the-coachella-valley



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