

1809 John Chavis moves to Raleigh. As a free Black man, he works as an educator and preacher.

1865 East Raleigh becomes a cultural center for African Americans due to prominent educational institutions such as the Raleigh Institute (today's Shaw University, established 1865) and Saint Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute (today's Saint Augustine's University, established 1867).

1896 The U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of "separate but equal" segregated facilities.

1919 Governor Bickett of

North Carolina announces the formation of an interracial council in Wake County "to maintain friendly relations between races..."

1935 North Carolina leases the City of Raleigh the land for what will become John Chavis Memorial Park for 25 years. The city applies for and receives federal funds through the Works Progress Administration to build the park.

1936 Construction begins on a swimming pool, athletic fields, tennis courts, two picnic shelters, an amphitheater, and two bridges over Little Rock Creek.

1937 The park's grand opening takes place on July 4th and features the carousel that is still in use today.

1938 The Negro Citizen's Committee of Raleigh (today's Raleigh-Wake Citizen's Association) petitions the city to name the park for John Chavis, a Revolutionary War veteran, free Black man, educator, and preacher from Raleigh. A marker in honor of John Chavis is installed on East Street as the first in the state to recognize African American history.

1938 John Chavis Memorial Park is officially dedicated on May 10th. According to local news reports, over 3,000 people attend the dedication.

1940 The original carousel house is built.

1945 The War Mothers Memorial bench is installed in memory of those who served in World War II from Wake County.

1951 North Carolina sells the land on which John Chavis Memorial Park was built to the City of Raleigh for \$1,500.

1952 A miniature train is added to the park.

1954 A grandstand is constructed at the park.

1958 Teenage Frolics, a local television program, is occasionally filmed in John Chavis Memorial Park and features African American teenagers showing off their dance moves. The show runs until 1982.

1960 A Korean War-era F9F-6 Cougar Marine Corps jet is added to the park as a play feature for children.

1961 A new community center is built with a gymnasium. It is expanded over time to include a lobby and meeting rooms.

1964 The Civil Rights Act of 1964 ends segregation in the City of Raleigh's parks.

1971 The City of Raleigh develops a master plan to revitalize the park that includes new athletic fields and a swimming pool.

1975 The original carousel house is remodeled.

1982 The park's Allan Herschell Carousel is restored to its original glory.

1994 The City of Raleigh develops a second master plan to renovate the community center, swimming pool, and tennis courts.

2006 A sculpture titled, "Glimpses of the Promised Land," is installed by public artist Mike Roig.

2008 South Park-East Raleigh Neighborhood Association organizes a Historic Chavis Park Festival. The Raleigh Historic Development Commission designates the carousel as a historic landmark. Over 1,000 citizens sign a petition asking the city to reinvest in John Chavis Memorial Park resulting in a series of community conversations and a new master planning process.

2009 The North Carolina Historic Marker Program replaces a marker in honor of John Chavis.

2013 The park's Allan Herschell Carousel is moved to the new carousel house. John Chavis Memorial Park celebrates its 75th anniversary.

2014 The City of Raleigh adopts the John Chavis Memorial Park Revised Master Plan based on significant public input.

2016 John Chavis Memorial Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2021 The park's renewal continues with a new community center, central plaza, and playground, as well as renovations to the original carousel building.