



Bering Land Bridge N Pres. • Cape Krusenstern NM
Gates of the Arctic NP & Pres. • Kobuk Valley NP • Noatak N Pres.

3rd Quarter Summer 2016

Weather & Climate Summary Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve Summer 2016

Bettles Summer Weather

The average temperature for the summer season was near-normal in Bettles. July was the warmest month with an average monthly temperature of 60.6°F. Precipitation was right at normal with 6.37 inches for the season (Figures 1 and 2; Tables 1 and 2).

June was cool with an average temperature of 55.9°F for the month, compared to a normal of 58.5°F. Daily temperatures were typically below normal the first three weeks of June and even dipped below freezing as late as June 9. The last week of the month was hot, with a high of 84°F on June 25. Precipitation in June totaled 1.23 inches, 88% of normal. Most of the precipitation came mid-month, with almost an inch recorded June 18-21.

The first week of July was warm and wet, with highs in the 70's and 0.97 inches of rain. The high temperature of 88°F on July 14 was the warmest of the summer and a record for the day. This coincided with dry weather and active fire behavior in the Alatna complex. The warmth didn't last long. Overall, the last two weeks of the month brought cooler than normal temperatures and showers. Total precipitation for July was 2.23 inches, 95% of normal.

The average temperature for August was 56.0°F. Normal is 52.5°F. There were 18 days with measureable precipitation in August totaling 2.86 inches, 108% of normal. The high temperature of 74°F on August 28 was a record for the day, and tied August 14 as the warmest reading of the month. The temperature dipped down to 29°F on August 31 to end the summer season.

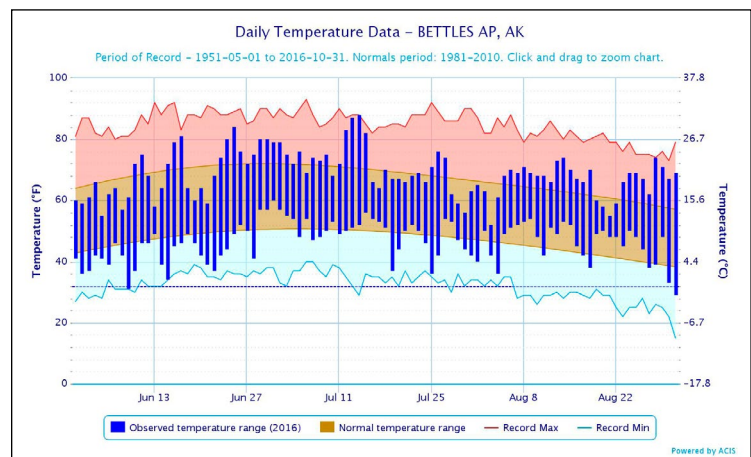


Figure 1. Summer 2016 daily temperatures at Bettles showing **record maximum** (red), **record minimum** (blue), **normal** (brown) and **2016 observed** range (blue bars).

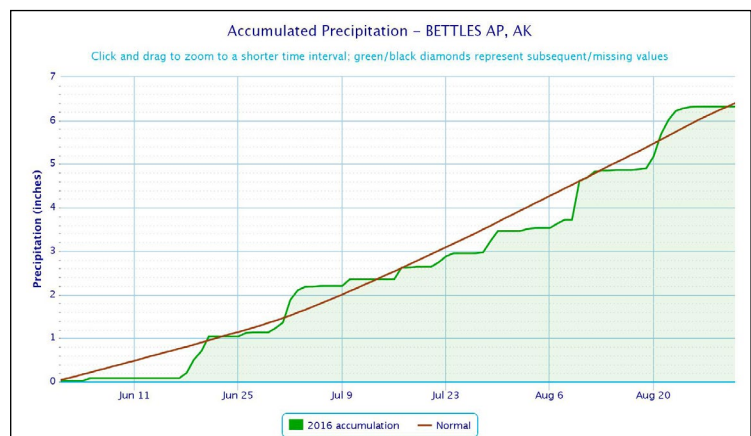


Figure 2. Summer **2016** accumulated precipitation at Bettles (green) compared to **normal** (brown line).

Table 1. Temperature: Summer 2016 average monthly temperatures compared to the 1981-2010 normal.

Summer 2016	Average Monthly Temp °F	1981-2010 Normal °F	Departure from Normal °F	Monthly High °F / Date	Monthly Low °F / Date
June	55.9	58.5	-2.6	84 / June 25	31 / June 9
July	60.6	59.7	+0.9	88 / July 14*	36 / July 25
August	56.0	52.5	+3.5	74 / Aug 14, 28*	29 / Aug 31

*Daily Record High; Summer Season Temperature Departure from Normal: +0.6°F

Table 2. Precipitation: Summer 2016 monthly precipitation totals compared to normal.

Summer 2016	Total Monthly Precip. in.	1981-2010 Normal in.	Departure from Normal in.	Greatest 24 -hr. total in. / Date	# Days with ≥ 0.01 in. water
June	1.23	1.40	-0.17	0.34 / June 21	10
July	2.23	2.36	-0.13	0.52 / July 2	14
August	2.86	2.64	+0.22	0.89 / Aug 10	18

Summer Season Precipitation Departure from Normal: -0.08 inches (99% of normal)

NPS Climate Monitoring Stations

NPS climate stations in Gates of the Arctic complement the long-term record from the National Weather Service station in Bettles. NPS stations are located near Chimney Lake, Pamichtuk Lake, Ram Creek, and Killik Pass (Figure 3). Near real-time observations are available through the National Weather Service at this [hyperlink](#).

Featured Station: Ram Creek

The Ram Creek site is located in a mountainous region of central GAAR at an elevation of 4100 feet (Figure 4). The station is located on the southeast edge of a ridgeline, with commanding views of the Alatna River to the south. Since its installation in August of 2012, temperatures have ranged from -23.7°F to 74.7°F. The station experiences moderate and consistent winds between 7 and 10 mph. The peak wind gust recorded at the station is 44 mph.



Figure 4. Ram Creek climate station.

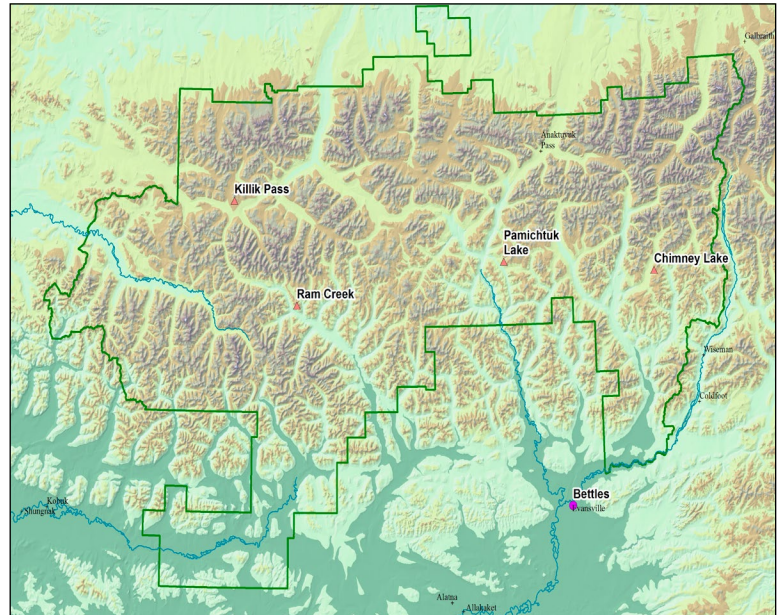


Figure 3. NPS climate stations in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

More Information

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[Current weather in GAAR](#)