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## 2018 Weather in Review: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

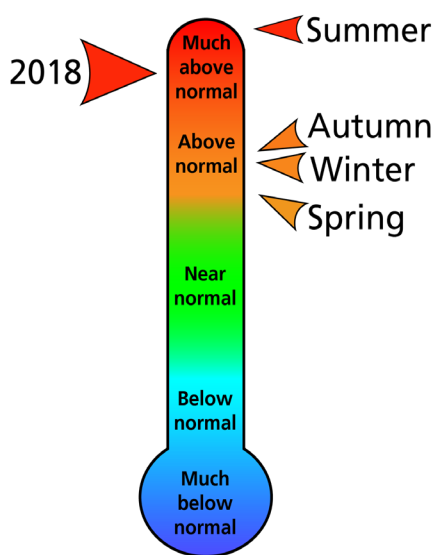
In all, 2018 was warm and extremely wet. In fact, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest year ever recorded in the park. Weather data collected in surrounding counties since 1895 reveals increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.26 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.35 inches per decade).

Information in this brief represents weather data averaged from all of the counties surrounding the park. These counties include Monroe, Northampton, and Pike counties, Pennsylvania and Sussex and Warren counties, New Jersey. More local weather data may vary slightly from what is reported here.

### Temperature

In total, 2018 was the 12<sup>th</sup> warmest year at the park since 1895, and all seasons were warmer than long-term averages (Figure 1). Eight months had higher than normal temperatures, with February, May, and December all being at least 5 °F above normal (Table 1).

Table 1. Average monthly, average annual, and departures from long-term average temperatures. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2018 average temperatures to relevant averages from 1895-2017. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.



| Month/<br>Year | Average<br>temperature (°F) | Departure from<br>average (°F) |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January        | 23.5                        | -1.0                           |
| February       | 33.6                        | +7.9                           |
| March          | 33.9                        | -1.1                           |
| April          | 43.2                        | -3.3                           |
| May            | 62.0                        | +5.0                           |
| June           | 66.3                        | +0.9                           |
| July           | 72.6                        | +2.5                           |
| August         | 72.8                        | +4.7                           |
| September      | 65.6                        | +4.5                           |
| October        | 51.8                        | +1.6                           |
| November       | 37.7                        | -1.6                           |
| December       | 33.5                        | +5.0                           |
| <b>2018</b>    | <b>49.7</b>                 | <b>+2.1</b>                    |

Figure 1. Seasonal and annual temperature rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the warmest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the coldest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

# Precipitation

In total, 2018 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest year in the park since 1895 (Figure 2). By the end of the year, the area received 69.2 inches of precipitation, more than 23 inches above the long-term average (Table 2).

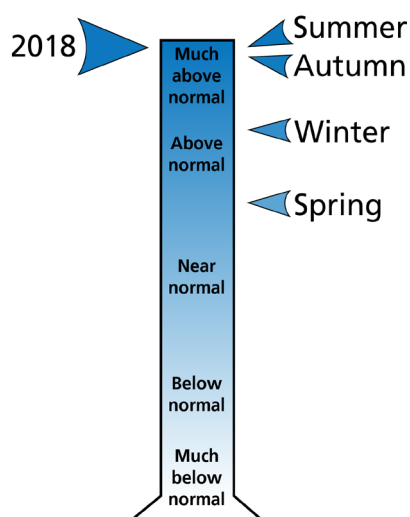


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Table 2. Monthly and annual total precipitation and departure from long-term averages. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2018 precipitation to relevant averages from 1895–2017. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

| Month/Year  | Total precipitation (in.) | Departure from average (in.) |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| January     | 3.8                       | +0.5                         |
| February    | 5.3                       | +2.4                         |
| March       | 3.3                       | -0.4                         |
| April       | 4.4                       | +0.6                         |
| May         | 5.6                       | +1.6                         |
| June        | 3.4                       | -0.8                         |
| July        | 7.2                       | +2.6                         |
| August      | 9.0                       | +4.6                         |
| September   | 8.0                       | +3.8                         |
| October     | 4.7                       | +0.9                         |
| November    | 9.0                       | +5.4                         |
| December    | 5.5                       | +1.9                         |
| <b>2018</b> | <b>69.2</b>               | <b>+23.1</b>                 |

## Temperature and Precipitation Trends (1895–2018)

Data collected in counties surrounding the park since the late 1800s shows increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.26 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.35 inches per decade).

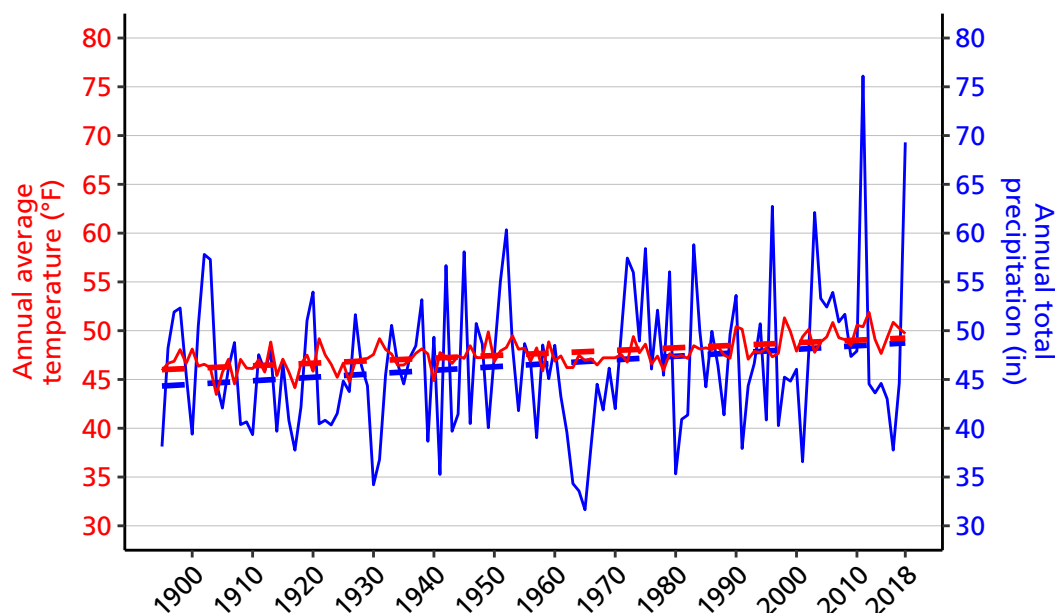


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2018 for counties surrounding the park. Dashed lines represent linear trends. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

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### Parks monitored:

Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS • Bluestone NSR • Delaware Water Gap NRA • Flight 93 NMem • Fort Necessity NB • Friendship Hill NHS • Gauley River NRA • Johnstown Flood NMem • New River Gorge NR • Upper Delaware SRR