Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Inventory and Monitoring Division

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2018 Weather in Review: Friendship Hill National Historic Site

In all, 2018 was warm and extremely wet. In fact, it was a record-setting year for precipitation, with higher totals than ever recorded. Weather data collected since 1895 reveals increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.02 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.32 inches per decade).

Information in this brief represents weather data from Fayette County, PA. More local weather data may vary slightly from what is reported here.

Temperature

In total, 2018 was the 22nd warmest year at the park since 1895. Spring and summer were particularly warm (Figure 1). Eight months had higher than normal temperatures, with February and May both being more than 7 °F above normal (Table 1).

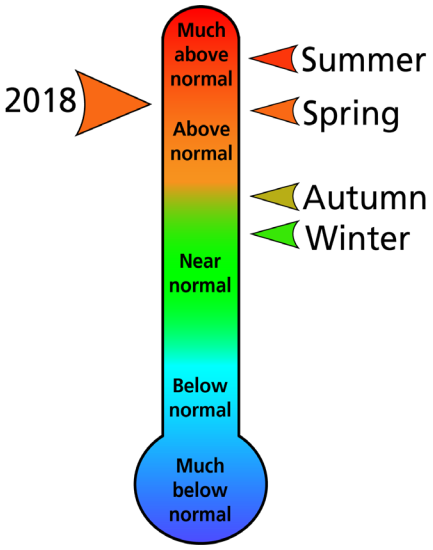

Figure 1. Seasonal and annual temperature rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the warmest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the coldest year/season on record. Data are available at https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings.

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/ Year	Average temperature (°F)	Departure from average (°F)
January	24.0	-3.7
February	38.3	+9.0
March	34.7	-3.7
April	45.4	-3.7
May	66.1	+7.1
June	67.9	+0.8
July	71.0	+0.2
August	71.1	+1.8
September	67.9	+4.6
October	53.5	+1.4
November	38.2	-2.8
December	34.7	+3.5
2018	51.1	+1.2

Precipitation

In total, 2018 was a record-setting year at the park — it was the wettest year since 1895 (Figure 2). All seasons had well-above normal precipitation. By the end of the year, the area received 70.7 inches of precipitation, almost 26 inches more than the long-term average (Table 2).

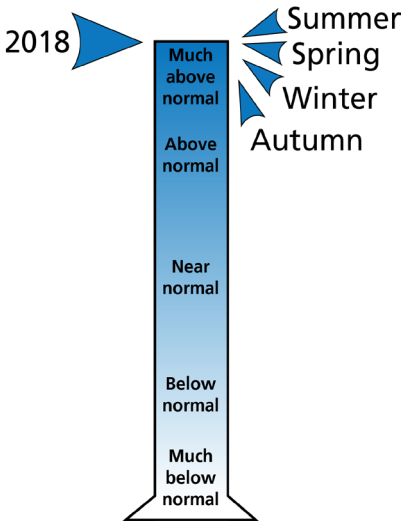

Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Data are available at https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings.

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	3.6	+0.1
February	7.9	+5.0
March	3.5	-0.5
April	5.9	+2.0
May	6.0	+1.8
June	7.5	+2.8
July	4.0	-0.8
August	6.5	+2.4
September	11.8	+8.3
October	5.0	+2.0
November	4.5	+1.4
December	4.5	+1.1
2018	70.7	+25.6

Temperature and Precipitation Trends (1895–2018)

Data collected in Fayette County, Pennsylvania since the late 1800s shows increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.02 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.32 inches per decade).

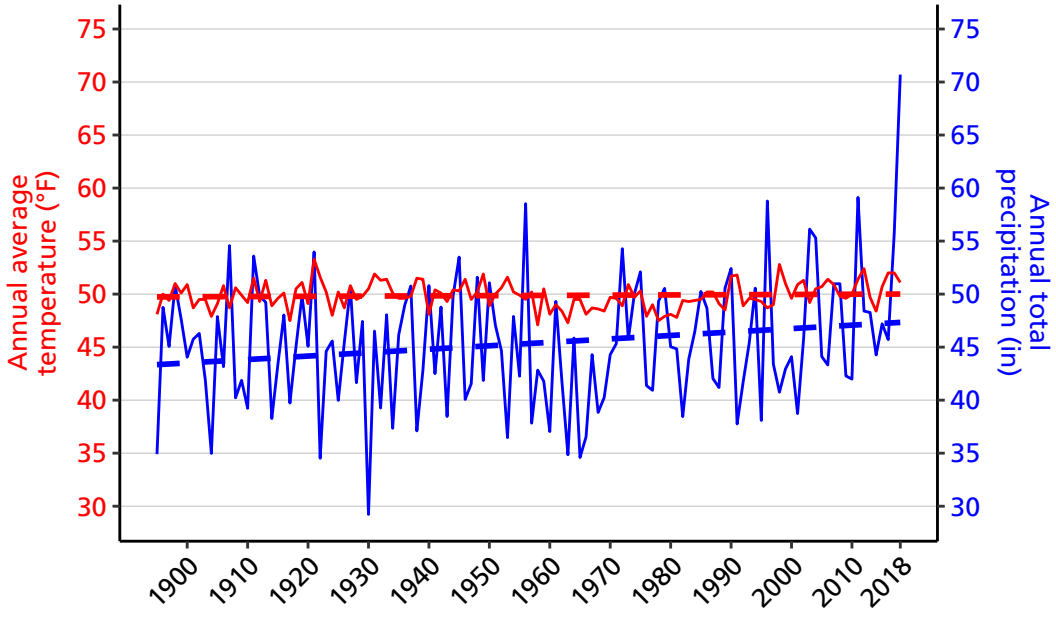

Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2018 for Fayette County, PA. Dashed lines represent linear trends. Data are available at https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series.

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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*

July 2019