



NPS / Dave Bieri

## 2019 Weather in Review: Bluestone National Scenic River

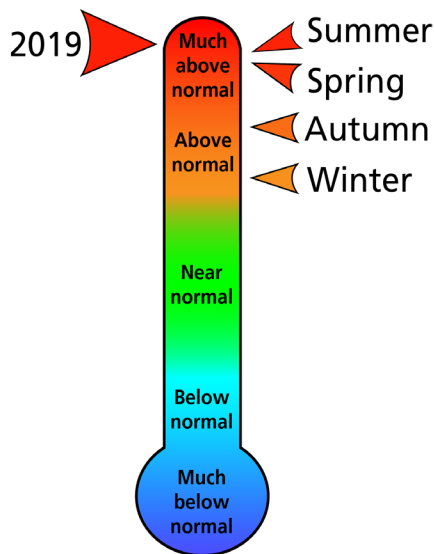
In all, 2019 was very warm and wet with temperatures and precipitation both well above normal. The year ended as the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest and 35<sup>th</sup> wettest since 1895. Weather data collected from surrounding areas from 1895–2019 show an increasing trend in annual average temperature (+0.03 °F per decade) and a declining trend in annual total precipitation (-0.13 inches per decade).

Information in this brief represents county-scale weather data averaged from all of the counties surrounding the park. These counties include Mercer and Summers counties, West Virginia. Individual weather station data may vary from what is reported here.

### Temperature

In total, 2019 was the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest year at the park since 1895. In particular, summer and spring were much warmer than normal (Figure 1). Nine months had higher than average temperatures, with February, May, September, and December all being more than 4 °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 2019 average temperatures to relevant averages from 1895-2018. 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        | 32.4                        | +0.5                           |
| February       | 40.5                        | +6.6                           |
| March          | 40.4                        | -1.8                           |
| April          | 54.6                        | +3.0                           |
| May            | 65.2                        | +4.6                           |
| June           | 66.1                        | -1.7                           |
| July           | 72.7                        | +1.5                           |
| August         | 70.2                        | +0.2                           |
| September      | 69.8                        | +5.5                           |
| October        | 57.4                        | +3.8                           |
| November       | 39.4                        | -3.4                           |
| December       | 39.2                        | +5.0                           |
| <b>2019</b>    | <b>54.0</b>                 | <b>+2.0</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, 2019 was wetter than normal with a total of 44.2 inches of precipitation — 3.3 inches more than the long-term average (Table 2). In contrast to other seasons, the summer was extremely dry (Figure 2). When compared to the historical record, it was the 35<sup>th</sup> wettest year since 1895 (Figure 2).

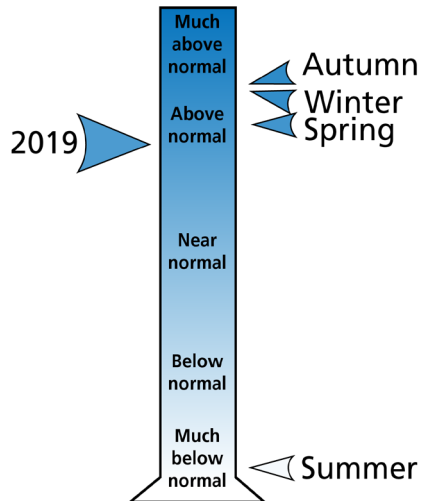


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Table 2. Monthly and annual total precipitation and departure from long-term averages. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2019 precipitation to relevant averages from 1895–2018. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

| Month/<br>Year | Total<br>precipitation (in.) | Departure from<br>average (in.) |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| January        | 3.2                          | 0.0                             |
| February       | 7.0                          | +4.0                            |
| March          | 2.4                          | -1.4                            |
| April          | 4.1                          | +0.7                            |
| May            | 5.2                          | +1.3                            |
| June           | 4.1                          | +0.2                            |
| July           | 4.0                          | -0.4                            |
| August         | 2.7                          | -1.1                            |
| September      | 0.4                          | -2.6                            |
| October        | 5.4                          | +2.7                            |
| November       | 2.3                          | -0.4                            |
| December       | 3.4                          | +0.3                            |
| <b>2019</b>    | <b>44.2</b>                  | <b>+3.3</b>                     |

## Temperature and Precipitation Trends (1895–2019)

Data from 1895–2019 for Mercer and Summers counties, West Virginia show an increasing trend in annual average temperature (+0.03 °F per decade) and a declining trend in annual total precipitation (-0.13 inches per decade).

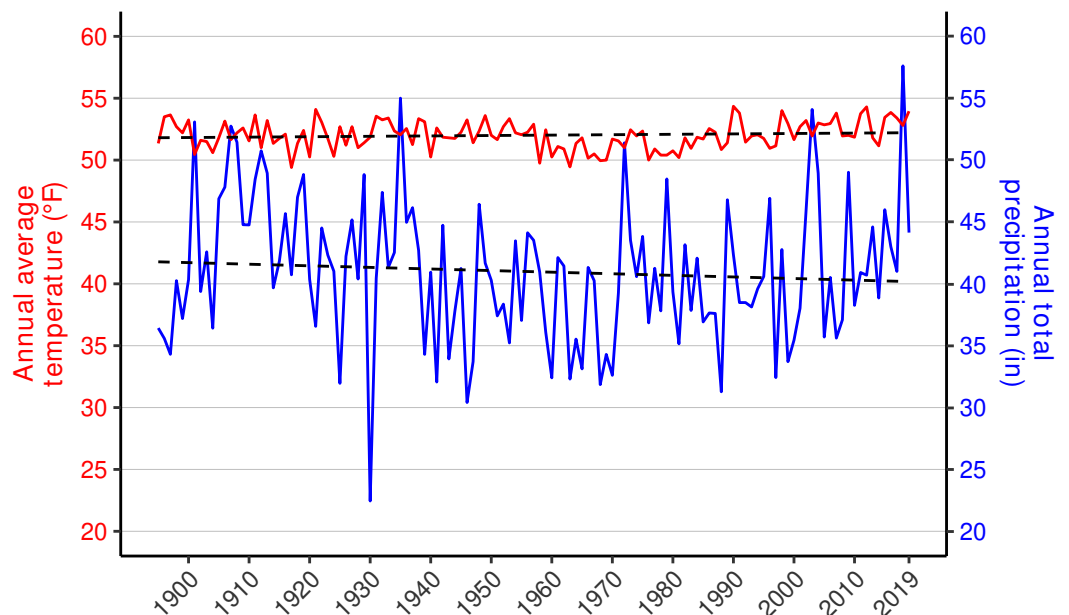


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) for Mercer and Summers counties, WV from 1895–2019. Dashed lines represent linear trends. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

### Lead Scientist

Jeb Wofford  
[Jeb\\_wofford@nps.gov](mailto:Jeb_wofford@nps.gov)  
 Biologist / Science Writer

### Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network

Matt Marshall - Program Manager  
[Matt\\_marshall@nps.gov](mailto:Matt_marshall@nps.gov)  
[www.nps.gov/im/ernn](http://www.nps.gov/im/ernn)

### 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*