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2019 Weather in Review: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

In all, 2019 was very wet and warm. The year ended as the 14th wettest and 15th warmest since 1895. Weather data collected from surrounding areas from 1895–2019 show increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.26 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.40 inches per decade).

Information in this brief represents county-scale 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. Individual weather station data may vary from what is reported here.

Temperature

In total, 2019 was the 15th warmest year at the park since 1895, and all seasons were warmer than long-term averages (Figure 1). Ten months had higher than normal temperatures, with February, April, July, September, and October all being more than 3 °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>.

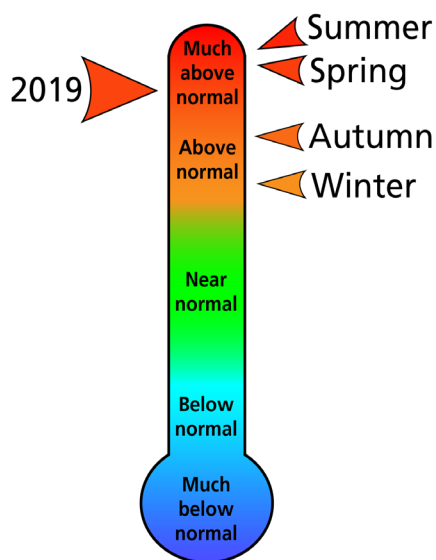


Figure 1. Seasonal and annual temperature rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the warmest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the coldest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Month/ Year	Average temperature (°F)	Departure from average (°F)
January	26.3	+1.8
February	29.4	+3.7
March	34.4	-0.6
April	50.5	+4.1
May	59.1	+2.0
June	66.0	+0.6
July	73.9	+3.8
August	70.1	+2.0
September	64.3	+3.1
October	53.7	+3.4
November	36.9	-2.3
December	30.5	+2.0
2019	49.6	+2.0

Precipitation

In total, 2019 was the 14th wettest year in the park since 1895 (Figure 2). By the end of the year, the area received 56.4 inches of precipitation — 10 inches above the long-term average (Table 2).

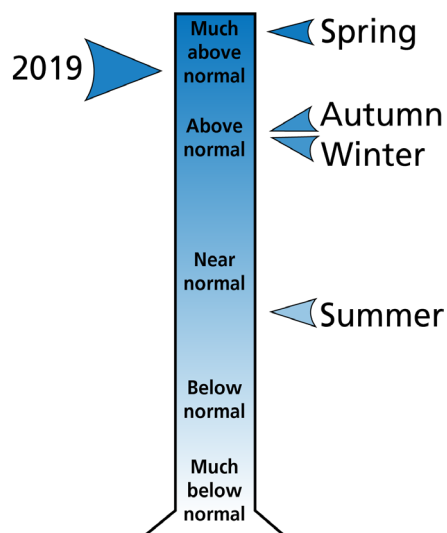


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

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

Month/ Year	Total precipitation (in.)	Departure from average (in.)
January	5.3	+2.0
February	2.8	-0.2
March	3.6	-0.1
April	5.5	+1.6
May	9.0	+5.0
June	4.9	+0.6
July	7.0	+2.4
August	3.7	-0.7
September	1.2	-3.0
October	7.2	+3.5
November	2.5	-1.1
December	3.7	0.0
2019	56.4	+10.0

Temperature and Precipitation Trends (1895–2019)

Data from 1895–2019 for counties surrounding the park show increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.26 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.40 inches per decade; Figure 3).

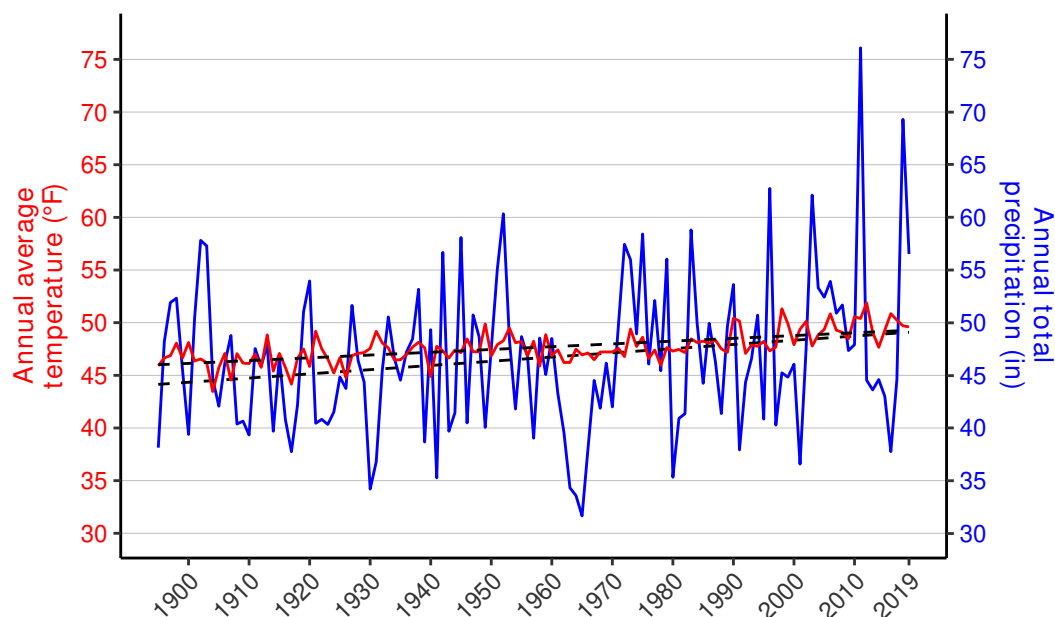


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2019 for counties surrounding the park. Dashed lines represent linear trends. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

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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