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2019 Weather in Review: Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

In all, 2019 was wetter and warmer than normal. The year ended as the 21st wettest and 24th warmest since 1895. Weather data collected from surrounding areas from 1895–2019 show increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.21 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.48 inches per decade).

Information in this brief represents county-scale weather data averaged from all of the counties surrounding the park. These counties include Pike and Wayne counties, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, Orange, and Sullivan counties, New York. Individual weather station data may vary from what is reported here.

Temperature

In total, 2019 was the 24th warmest year at the park since 1895. Spring and summer were particularly warm (Figure 1). Nine months had higher than normal temperatures, with February, April, and July 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>.

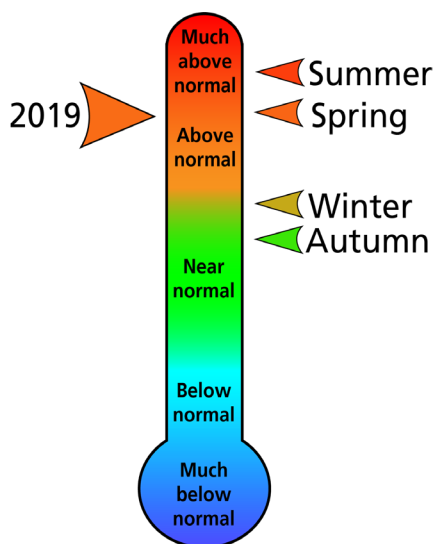


Figure 1. Seasonal and annual temperature rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the warmest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the coldest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Month/ Year	Average temperature (°F)	Departure from average (°F)
January	23.1	+0.8
February	26.9	+3.5
March	31.7	-1.0
April	47.7	+3.2
May	56.5	+1.0
June	63.8	0.0
July	71.7	+3.2
August	67.5	+0.9
September	61.8	+2.2
October	51.5	+2.7
November	34.5	-3.2
December	28.3	+1.6
2019	47.1	+1.2

Precipitation

In total, 2019 was the 21st wettest year in the park since 1895 (Figure 2), and most seasons were wetter than normal. That said, the summer was very dry. By the end of the year, the area received 50.9 inches of precipitation — 6.3 inches more than the long-term average (Table 2).

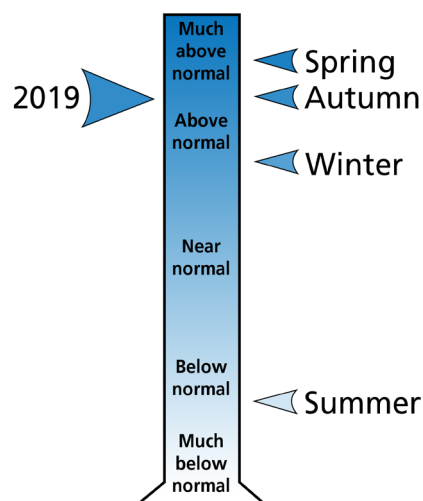


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Table 2. Monthly and annual total precipitation and departure from long-term averages. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 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	5.4	+2.3
February	2.7	-0.2
March	2.5	-0.9
April	5.6	+1.9
May	6.3	+2.3
June	5.0	+0.7
July	4.3	0.0
August	3.7	-0.5
September	1.5	-2.5
October	6.7	+3.0
November	3.3	-0.2
December	3.9	+0.4
2019	50.9	+6.3

Temperature and Precipitation Trends (1895–2019)

Data from 1895–2019 for counties surrounding the park show increasing trends in annual average temperature (+0.21 °F per decade) and annual total precipitation (+0.48 inches per decade; Figure 3).

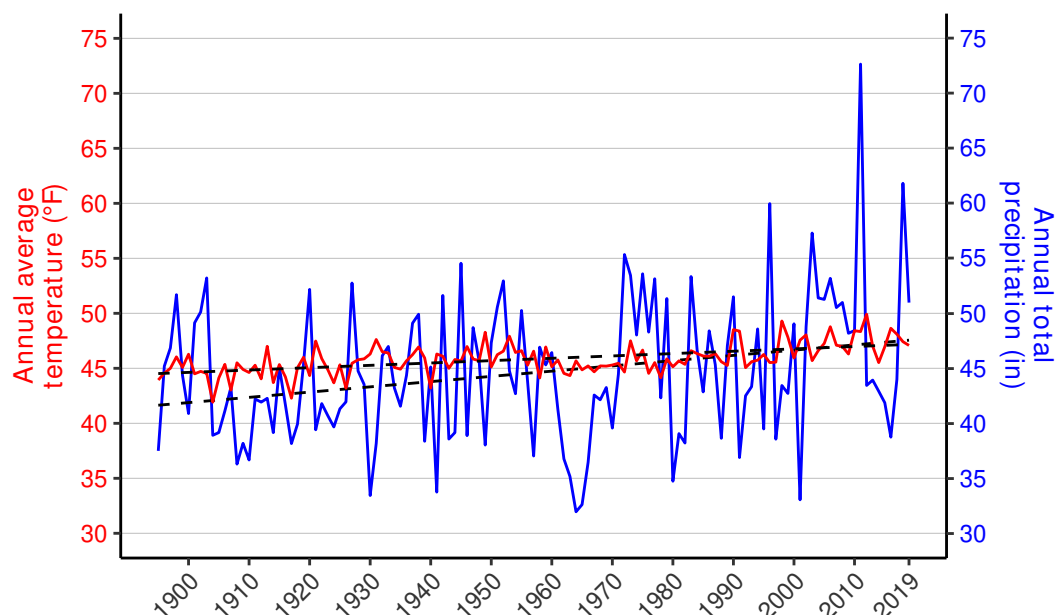


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2019 for counties surrounding the park. Dashed lines represent linear trends. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

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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