



2024 Weather in Review: Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

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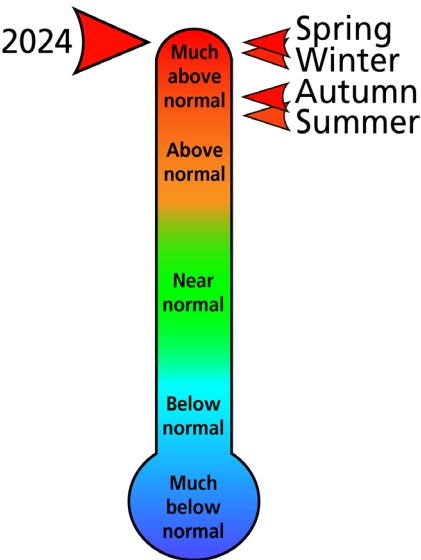
In all, 2024 was extremely warm and had total precipitation that was slightly below normal. The year ended as the 3rd warmest and 41st driest on record (since 1895). Data indicate that over the long term, annual average temperature and annual total precipitation have both increased in the counties surrounding the park (+0.2°F per decade and +0.35 inches per decade, respectively).

This brief provides county-scale weather data averaged from all of the counties surrounding the park, including data from 1895–2024 (i.e., period of record). These counties include Berks and Chester counties, PA. Data and analyses herein are courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate at a Glance Program.

Temperature

In total, 2024 was the 3rd warmest year ever recorded at the park — all seasons were warmer than average (Figure 1). In addition, every month had higher than normal temperatures with February and March both being more than 5°F above long-term averages (Table 1).

Table 1. Average monthly, average annual, and departures from long-term average temperatures. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2024 average temperatures to relevant averages from 1895–2023. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.



Month/ Year	Average temperature (°F)	Departure from average (°F)
January	33.0	+4.3
February	36.8	+6.6
March	44.9	+5.7
April	52.9	+2.8
May	64.0	+3.4
June	72.8	+3.6
July	77.0	+3.1
August	72.7	+0.8
September	66.0	+0.8
October	55.8	+2.1
November	47.1	+4.5
December	33.9	+1.4
2024	54.8	+3.3

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. Winter = Jan–Mar, Spring = Apr–June, Summer = July–Sept, Autumn = Oct–Dec. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Precipitation

Total precipitation for 2024 was below normal and was highly variable across the seasons (Figure 2). October had virtually no rainfall (Table 2). Over the year, a total of 42 inches of precipitation fell, and the year ended as the 41st driest since 1895.

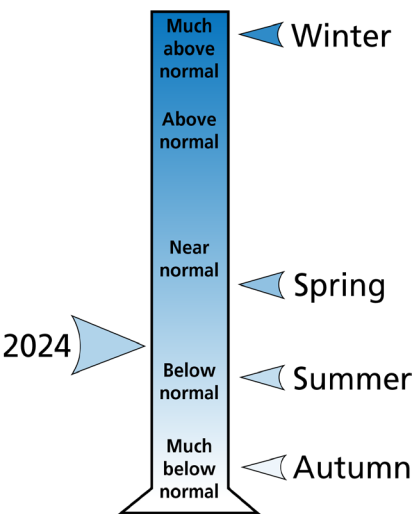


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Winter = Jan–Mar, Spring = Apr–June, Summer = July–Sept, Autumn = Oct–Dec. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Table 2. Monthly and annual total precipitation and departure from long-term averages. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2024 precipitation to relevant averages from 1895–2023. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

Month/Year	Total precipitation (in.)	Departure from average (in.)
January	6.56	+3.18
February	1.89	–1.07
March	6.02	+2.32
April	4.81	+1.09
May	3.12	–0.82
June	3.15	–1.00
July	3.69	–0.86
August	5.56	+1.10
September	1.19	–2.86
October	0.04	–3.44
November	2.5	–0.84
December	3.47	–0.14
2024	42.02	–3.34

Temperature and Precipitation (1895–2024)

Data for Berks and Chester counties, PA indicate that annual average temperature has increased approximately +0.2°F per decade and annual total precipitation has increased approximately +0.35 inches per decade since 1895 (Figure 3).

National Park Service scientists have forecast future changes in climate too. Models estimate that by 2100, annual average temperature at the park will increase by 3.1–9.0°F (from a best-case to worst-case scenario, respectively). Annual total precipitation is expected to increase by 7–14% (see [Gonzalez et al., 2018](#) for details).

Data in this brief are preliminary and were retrieved from NOAA on 01/07/25.

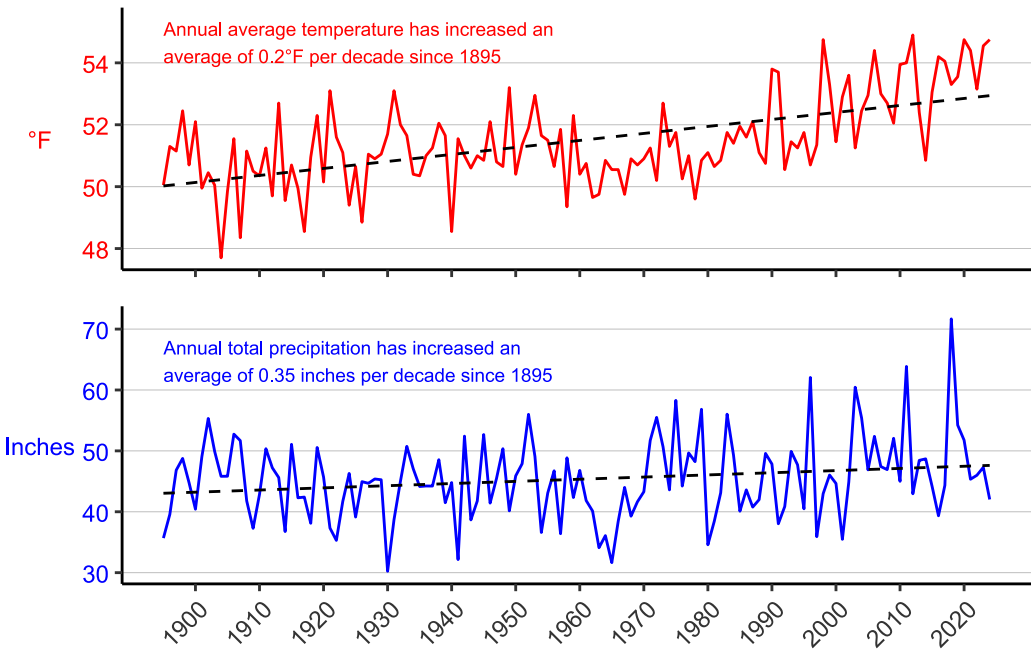


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2024 for Berks and Chester counties, PA. Dashed lines represent linear estimates of change. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.