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2024 Weather in Review: Booker T. Washington National Monument

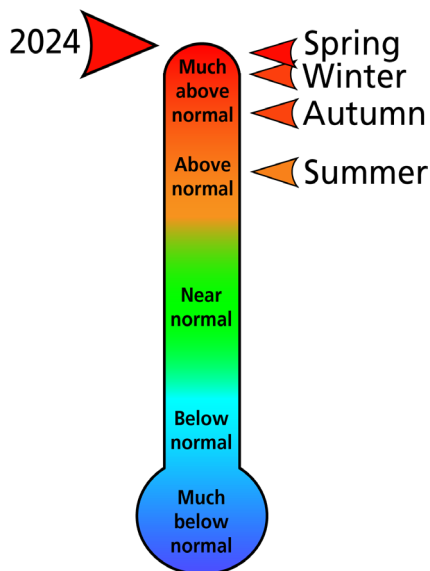
In all, 2024 was the warmest year ever recorded in Franklin County, VA (i.e., since 1895). In terms of total precipitation, the year was slightly above normal. Data indicate that over the long term, annual average temperature and annual total precipitation have both increased in the county (+0.1°F per decade and +0.33 inches per decade, respectively).

This brief provides county-scale weather data for Franklin County, VA, including data from 1895–2024 (i.e., period of record). 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 warmest year ever recorded at the park (Figure 1). Every month of the year had a higher than normal average temperature (Table 1). February, March, and November were particularly warm, all being at least 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	37.0	+1.4
February	43.9	+6.2
March	51.1	+5.4
April	59.2	+4.1
May	66.9	+3.0
June	73.4	+2.1
July	77.5	+2.6
August	74.1	+0.5
September	68.0	+0.6
October	58.3	+1.8
November	51.3	+5.2
December	38.2	+0.3
2024	58.2	+2.7

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

It was a relatively near-normal year for total annual precipitation though seasonal precipitation varied dramatically (Figure 2). In all, 46.7 inches of precipitation fell, and the year ended as the 42nd wettest since 1895 (Table 2; Figure 2).

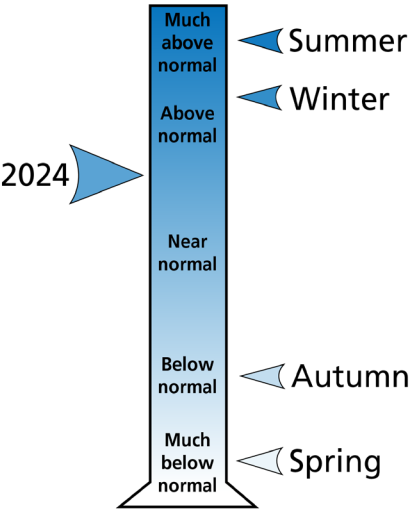


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Winter = Jan–Mar, Spring = Apr–June, Summer = July–Sept, Autumn = Oct–Dec. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

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	6.78	+3.49
February	2.46	–0.62
March	3.61	–0.14
April	2.44	–1.05
May	4.28	+0.22
June	0.86	–3.19
July	5.31	+0.94
August	5.6	+1.49
September	8.17	+4.26
October	0.94	–2.65
November	1.8	–1.18
December	4.41	+1.08
2024	46.66	+2.65

Temperature and Precipitation (1895–2024)

Data for Franklin County, VA indicate that annual average temperature has increased approximately +0.1°F per decade and annual total precipitation has increased approximately +0.33 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 2.9–8.5°F (from a best-case to worst-case scenario, respectively). Annual total precipitation is expected to increase by 8–14% (see [Gonzalez et al., 2018](#) for details).

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

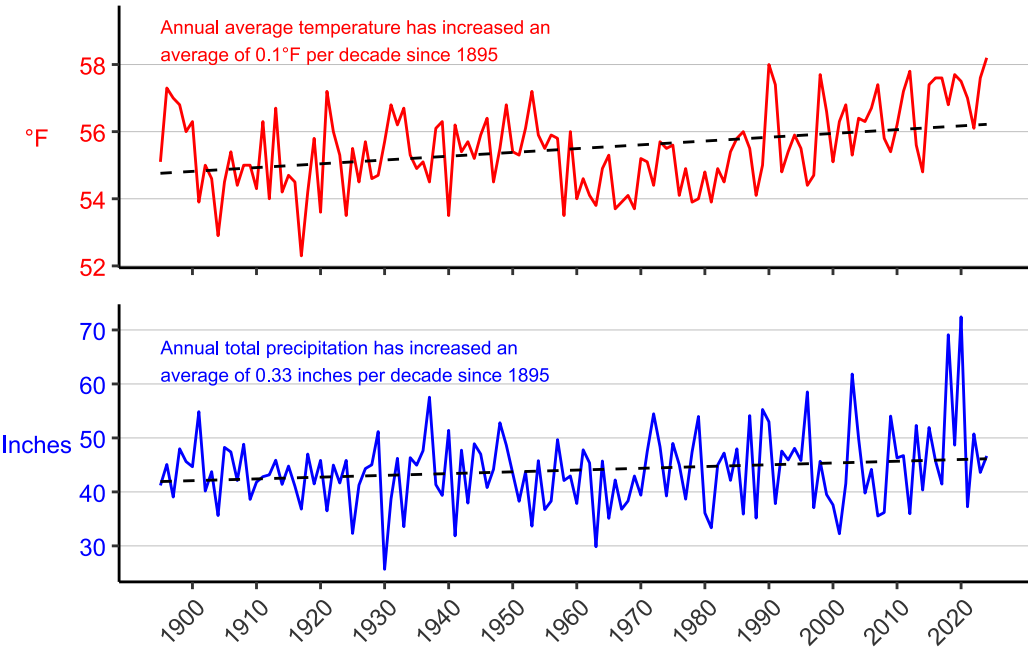


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2024 for Franklin County, VA. Dashed lines represent linear estimates of change. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.