

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for Waterways Association Meeting 8/12/2015
National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA

For the latest river and weather forecasts--<http://www.weather.gov/pittsburgh>

WEATHER RECAP

Early July was wet and cool, but became dry and warm by end of the month. It was drier than normal over the Monongahela basin with more rain than normal falling over the Allegheny basin. In Pittsburgh a total of 3.61 inches of rain fell during July which is 0.22 inches below the normal of 3.83. At the beginning of the month the abundant rainfall that persisted since the middle of May had flows on the Allegheny of over 400% of normal while the Ohio and Monongahela rivers were 200% of normal. The dry spell in the second half of July brought Allegheny flows to 90% of normal, the Ohio 40% and Monongahela 70% of normal. All reservoirs were at or above the summer pools. The high exceeded 90 degrees on 2 days during the month. No river flooding occurred, but thunderstorms caused localized heavy rains and flash flooding during the month (July 6, 14, 26). Areas most affected were the Pittsburgh Metropolitan area and areas in the Allegheny Basin.

OUTLOOK

The weather pattern that brought us the stagnant, hot and humid conditions for about 10 days in late July has ended, and we are returning to the slightly cooler and wetter pattern that we had been experiencing much of the summer. No extended periods of heat are expected. The jet stream will remain close to or just to our north into September meaning we will have a few days of warm humid weather interspersed with frontal passages every 3 -5 days

Outlook for rest of week: Cooler and relatively dry. A chance of showers Saturday.

Outlook for week of August 10: Slightly below normal temperatures with a period of rain early in the week and again later in week. Total Rainfall: (approx. 1.00 to 2.00 inches).

Outlook for week of August 17: Slightly below normal temperatures with chances of showers. (approx. 1.00-2.00 inch)

Outlook rest of August: Normal temperatures. Keep eyes to the gulf and western Atlantic for possible tropical storm development

September outlook: Below normal temperatures. Normal precipitation.

October outlook: Below normal temperatures. Normal precipitation.

Tropical/Hurricane outlook: Only 3 storms so far: Anna, Bill and Claudette. Strong easterlies and dust plumes off of western Africa are hampering tropical development in the Atlantic. Waters temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and western Caribbean are well above normal. This area is where there is a potential for development over the next several weeks.

Rest of Summer Outlook: El Nino may limit the number of Atlantic Hurricanes, but ones that do form could be strong.

Winter Outlook: El Nino strengthens in the central Pacific, but cooler than normal temperatures in the eastern Pacific. Normally a strong El Nino means a milder than normal winter for Pittsburgh, but a big factor is that warm water off the west coast of the US and Canada is forecast to remain into this winter again. This may mean more snow & slightly colder than normal temperatures (but not as cold as past 2 winters) for the Pittsburgh area. October-November may start the winter season colder than normal with above normal precipitation, December may be milder, but outlook for January/ February is slightly colder with February possibly snowier.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Jul 2015 Precipitation</i>	<i>Departure (Inches)</i>	<i>Year to date (Inches)</i>
Pittsburgh	3.61	-0.22	26.39(+1.85)

<i>Location</i>	<i>Jul Average Temperature</i>	<i>Departure Degrees</i>	<i>Extreme High</i>	<i>Extreme Low</i>
Pittsburgh	73.3	+0.70	92 Jul 28	55 Jul 16,24

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

High water potential is below normal. The soils have dried. A minimum of 2.00 inch basin wide rainfall in 6 to 12 hours is needed to bring rivers to bank full. Total rainfall through the first week of September should average about 4.0 inches which above normal. The Monongahela and Cheat River Basins may get more than Allegheny basin during this period.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Average monthly precipitation	2.7	2.39	2.95	3.11	3.95	4.3	3.83	3.48	3.11	2.29	3.23	2.85	38.19

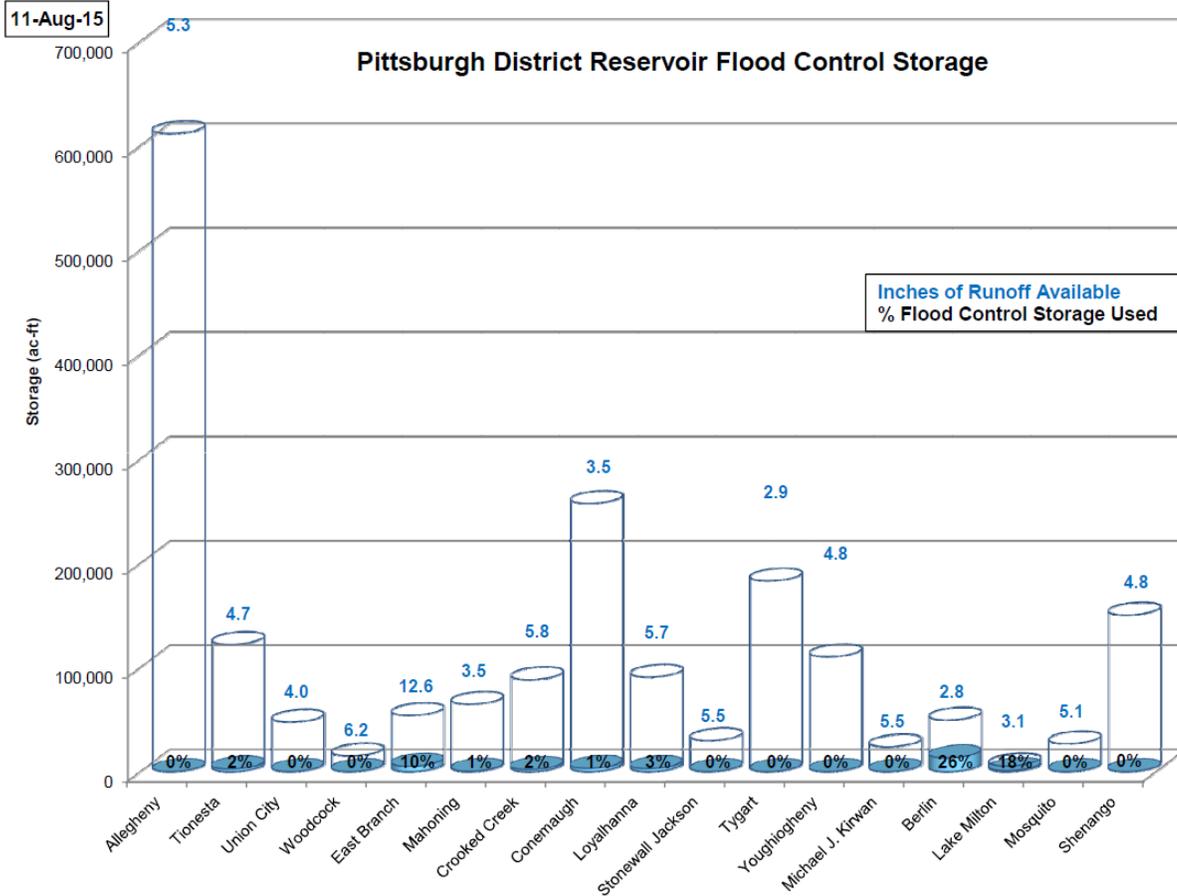
WEATHER FORECAST

Pittsburgh PA

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
								
Patchy Fog then Isolated Showers	Isolated Showers then Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 75 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 86 °F

8-14 Day Outlook... Below normal temperatures and normal rainfall.
30 Day Outlook... Below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation.
Sep-Oct-Nov Outlook... Below normal temperatures and normal rainfall
Nov-Dec-Jan Outlook... Below normal temperatures and normal precipitation
Jan-Feb-Mar Outlook... Normal temperatures and normal precipitation

Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches So far in 2015: 26.39 (+1.85)
 Totals for: 2014: 36.84 2013: 36.65 inches; 2012: 41.74 inches; 2011: 44.24 inches; 2010: 37.85 inches



Forecast Sea Surface Temperature and El Nino:

