

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for Waterways Association Meeting 02/14/2018
National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA

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

WEATHER RECAP

Once again, the average temperature for the month was below normal, which now brings us to three consecutive months below normal. The very cold temperatures at the end of December/beginning of January allowed for rapid ice accrual on the local rivers which culminated in several ice jams and associated flooding. An event on the 12-13th brought 3.50 inches of rain across portions of the upper Ohio Valley, which lead to rapid rises and ice jams. The Point at Pittsburgh reached 25.3 – flood stage, which hasn't occurred since March of 2011.

RIVER ICE

Much of the river ice from January has been flushed out or continues to rot. However, some shore ice on the Allegheny remains several feet thick. While the warmth expected for much of the rest of the month will limit additional ice formation, we will need to monitor rainfall/snowmelt events and subsequent rises that could result in movement of this shore ice.

OUTLOOK

Week of Feb 13th: Temperatures will warm each day, reaching the 60's by Friday. System will bring rain tonight and again Thursday night-Friday. Rainfall could approach 2+ inches. River Rises are expected

Outlook for week of Feb 19: Above average warmth will continue, after a brief cool down for the weekend. Active weather pattern continues with yet another system that could bring rain by midweek.

Outlook for week of Feb 26: Temperatures will trend closer to above average with above average precipitation.

Outlook for March: Slightly below average temperature and above average precipitation.

Outlook for April: Climate studies show that after a warm Oct and a Cool Nov, the following April runs warmer than average. Precipitation above normal.

Outlook for May: Near normal temperatures and precipitation.

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

Rain is expected at the end of this week, with the heaviest axis along the Monongahela, Cheat, and Youghiogheny basins. River Flood Watches are likely, with several points going to near or above flood stage. A rather active pattern will continue through the rest of the month with another rain system next week. High water potential will remain elevated for the next couple of weeks.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Jan 2018 Precipitation</i>	<i>Departure (Inches)</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	4.28	+1.58

<i>Location</i>	<i>Jan Average Temperature</i>	<i>Departure Degrees</i>	<i>Extreme High</i>	<i>Extreme Low</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	25.6	-2.9	63 on Jan 22	-6 on Jan 7

	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
Average High Temperature	35.7	39.3	49.2	61.7	70.8	79.1	82.5	81.4	74.3	62.6	51.2	39.4	60.7
Average Low Temperature	21.1	23	30	40.2	49.3	58.4	62.8	61.5	54	42.9	34.7	25.3	42
Average monthly snowfall	11.8	10.3	7.6	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	2	8.3	41.9

Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night
							
40%	60%	30% → 60%	100%	80% → 50%			
Chance Light Rain	Light Rain Likely	Chance Light Rain then Light Rain Likely	Rain	Rain then Chance Rain	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy
High: 53 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 63 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 50 °F	Low: 22 °F	High: 39 °F	Low: 27 °F

8-14 Day Outlook... Temperatures above average. Above normal precipitation.

30 Day Outlook... Near normal temperatures. Above normal precipitation.

Mar-Apr-May Outlook... Stormy with above normal precipitation.

Apr-May-Jun Outlook... Continued active pattern with above normal precipitation . Temperatures begin to trend above normal

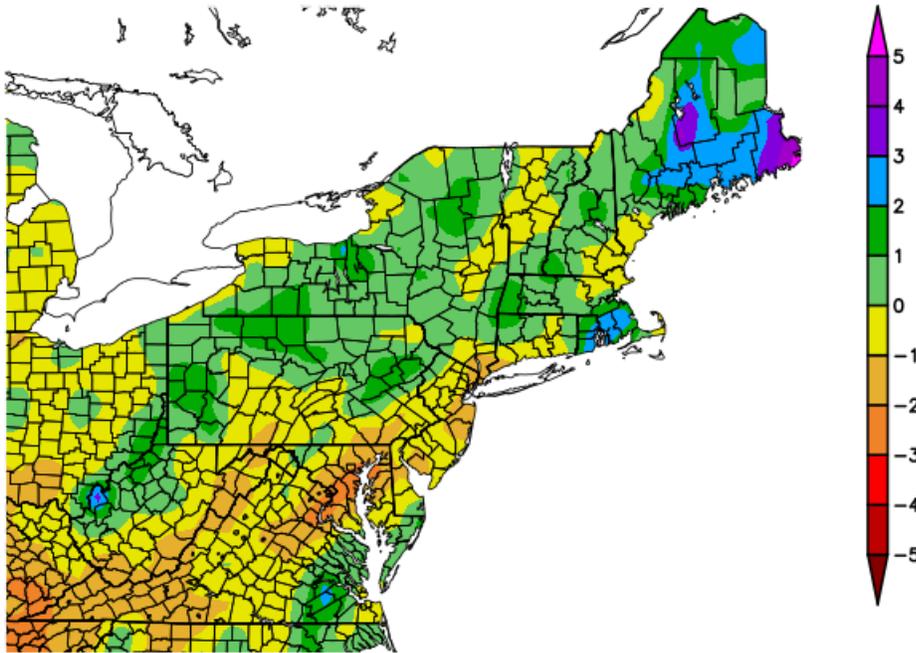
Summer Outlook: Analogs say after a cool early winter, temperatures trend near or below normal for the summer. May be like summer 2014.

Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches **In 2017:** 42.15(+3.96) **So Far in 2018:** 5.75 (+1.93)

Totals for: 2016: 35.01; 2015:40.56 2014: 36.84 2013: 36.65 inches; 2012: 41.74 inches; 2011: 44.24 inches

Average Yearly snowfall Pittsburgh: 41.9 inches. **So far for 2017-18:** 38.2(11.0); 2016-17 Season: 32.0(-9.2), 2015-16: 29.6 inches (-12.3) 2014-15: 47.2 in 2013-14: 63.4 in; 2012-13: 57 in; 2011-12: 37 in; 2010-11: 57 in; 2009-10: 77 in

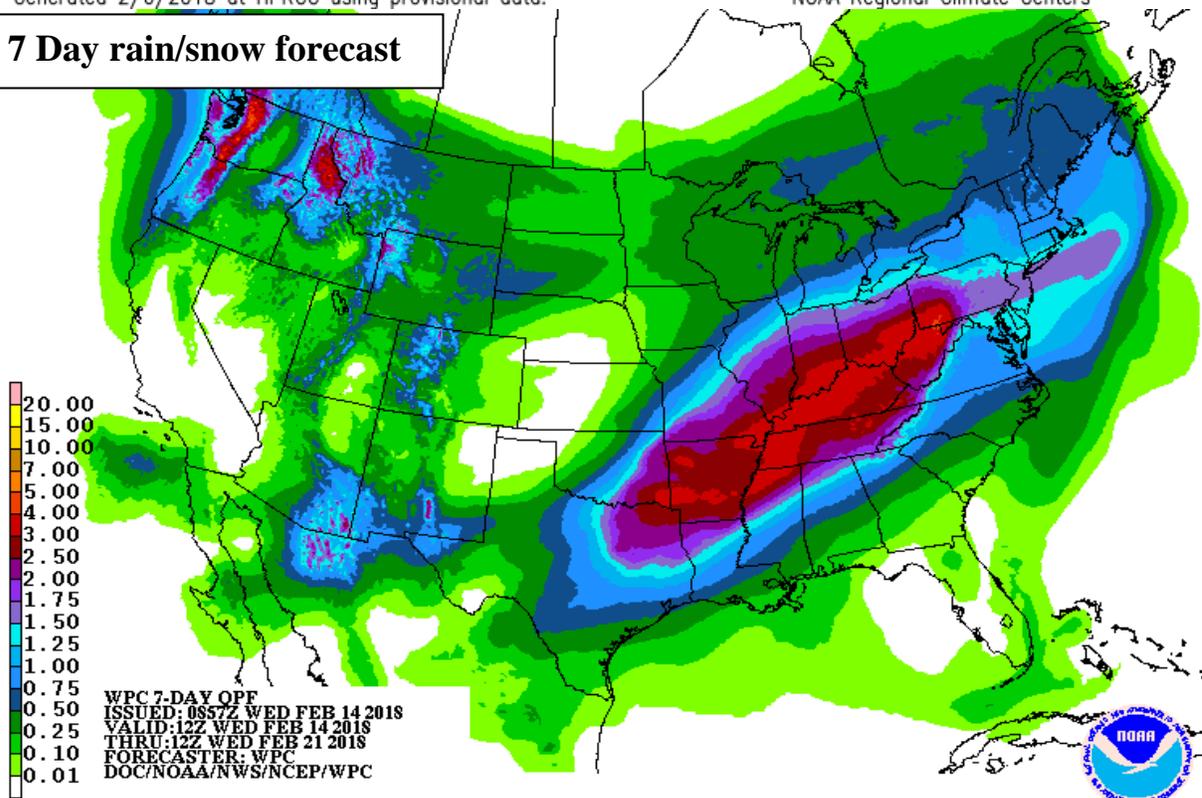
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in) 1/1/2018 - 1/31/2018



Generated 2/6/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

7 Day rain/snow forecast



Western Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast February - March 2018

