

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for the Pittsburgh Waterways Association Meeting 06/12/2019

National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA

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

WEATHER RECAP

May was both a wet and warm month for much of the upper Ohio River valley under a fairly active weather pattern, with several systems riding overtop an upper level ridge over the eastern CONUS. The most active/wet period was toward the end of the month as a nearly stationary boundary became the focus for several rounds of showers and thunderstorms training over a portion of SW PA on the 28th and 29th. Precipitation amounts ranged from 3-5 inches in this region, which led to flash flooding and stream rises along the Beaver and Allegheny River basins. The Connoquenessing Creek crested at its 4th highest crest, 15.34ft, which was only slightly lower than the crest from the remnants of Hazel (15.51ft) in October 1954. Meteorological Spring ended just slightly above normal in temperature and precip. (+1.3 degrees, +1.77 inches)

OUTLOOK

Rest of this week: Shower and thunderstorm chances return ahead of a cold front passage expected Thursday. Dry conditions are expected Friday and Saturday before shower and thunderstorms are possible Sunday. Precipitation between 0.50-1.50 inches.

Outlook for week of June 17: Active weather pattern persists with daily shower/thunderstorm chances. Expect temperatures to run at or below seasonal values with above average precipitation. Rainfall ~2.00 inches possibly higher in thunderstorms.

Outlook for week of June 24: Near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation possible. Summer thunderstorms.

Outlook for July: Near to slightly above normal temperatures and precipitation and projected.

Summer Outlook: El Nino is still here. If May is any indicator to our summer (and there are some analogs that suggest this), we will have an above average summer for rainfall. Hurricane season could be relatively low, though there may be development close to the coast like last year.

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

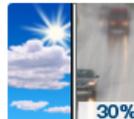
Streamflows over the upper Ohio River basin are running near normal, save for the Allegheny and Beaver where they are closer to 150% of normal. As a result, 1.50-2.00 inches of rainfall in 6-12 hours will be needed to bring river and streams to near bank full. Long Range projections are keeping the chance for river flooding low for the Monongahela, Allegheny, Youghiogheny, and upper Ohio.

<i>Location</i>	<i>May 2019 Precipitation</i>	<i>Departure (Inches)</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	5.97	+2.02

<i>Location</i>	<i>May Average Temperature</i>	<i>Departure Degrees</i>	<i>Extreme High</i>	<i>Extreme Low</i>
<i>Pittsburgh</i>	64.0	+3.9	86 on May 19	42 on May 15

	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

Pittsburgh Forecast:

Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny	Showsers Likely	T-storms	T-storms Likely then Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Chance Rain
High: 77 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 69 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 79 °F

8-14 Day Outlook... Below average temperatures and above normal precipitation are expected.

Jun-Jul-Aug Outlook... Above average temperatures and precipitation near or slightly above normal.

Aug-Sep-Oct Outlook... Temperatures remain above normal. Precipitation closer to normal. Some question as to whether we will have another wet Oct-Nov.

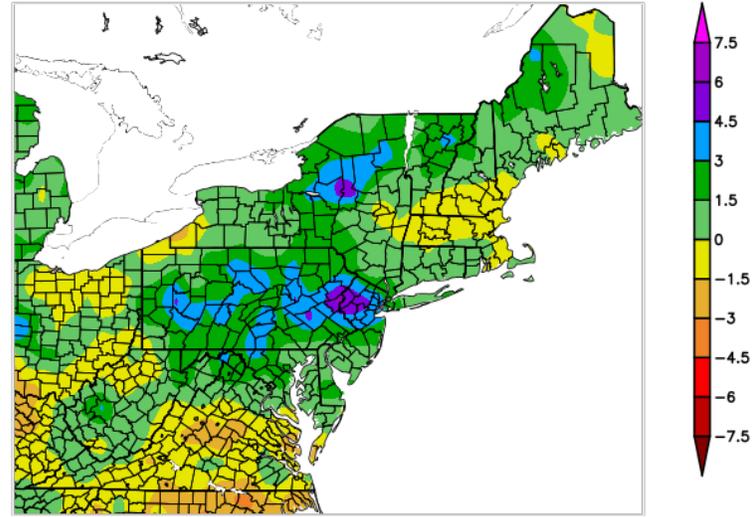
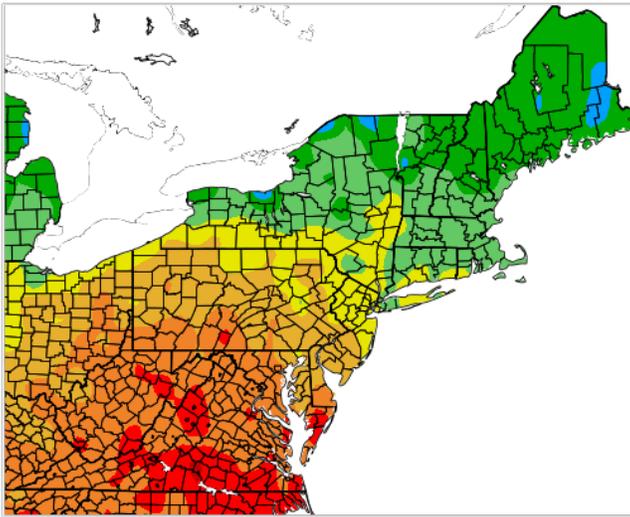
Average Yearly precipitation Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches. In 2019: 19.45" (+3.06)

Totals for: **2018: 57.83" (+19.64)**; 2017: 42.15"; 2016: 35.01"; 2015: 40.56"; 2014: 36.84"; 2013: 36.65"; 2012: 41.74"

Average Yearly snowfall Pittsburgh: 41.9 inches. 2018-19: 36.6" (-5.3); 2017-18: 59.8" (+17.9); 2016-17: 32.0" (-9.2), 2015-16: 29.6" (-12.3) 2014-15: 47.2"; 2013-14: 63.4"; 2012-13: 57"; 2011-12: 37"; 2010-11: 57"; 2009-10: 77"

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/1/2019 – 5/31/2019

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
5/1/2019 – 5/31/2019

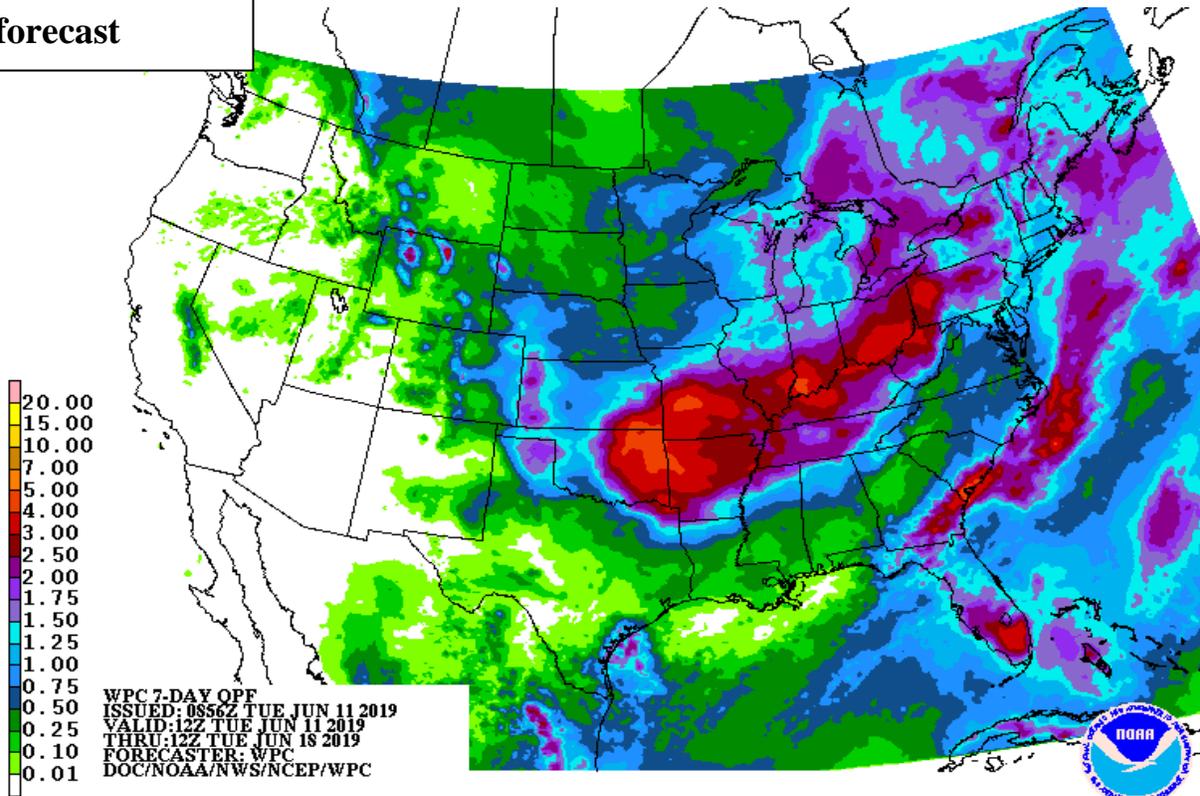


Generated 6/10/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers 5/10/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

7 Day rain forecast



Summer thoughts. May 2019 made it into the top 10 wettest Mays for the Pittsburgh region. Taking 8 of the other 10 years and projecting potential precipitation for the summer season results in a wetter than average summer for much of the Ohio Valley

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Standardized Precipitation Anomalies
Jun to Aug 2004,2003,1997,1989,1968,1956,1933
Versus 1981–2010 Longterm Average

