

RIVER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

Prepared for the Pittsburgh Waterways Association Meeting 01/09/2019

National Weather Service Forecast Office, Pittsburgh PA

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

WEATHER RECAP

As had been the case in almost every month in 2018, December ended with precipitation above average. It took the whole month, but we did surpass the precipitation record in Pittsburgh (set back in 2004) with 57.83 inches measured by the end of the day on the 31st.

OUTLOOK

Rest of this week: Upper level trough and northwest flow off of the Great Lakes will allow for snow showers to persist. Best chance for snow accumulation is in the mountains and points north of I-80. System for the weekend may bring additional chances for snow across southern PA/northern WV. Track is uncertain at this time.

Outlook for week of Jan 14th: Dry for the first half of the week, followed by a cold frontal passage late week. Precip under 0.50 inches. Temperatures will run near or slightly above normal.

Outlook for week of Jan 21th: Cold air returns. Precipitation under 0.50 inches.

Outlook for week of Jan 28th: Temperatures may run below normal through the end of the month.

Outlook for February: First half of February looks to remain cold. Precipitation likely near average with active pattern persisting. Snowfall may be just above average for the month.

Outlook for March: Temperatures near to slightly above average with precipitation likely near normal.

HIGH WATER POTENTIAL

Streamflows have returned to very near normal for the season. In general that means it will take 1.50-2.00 inches of rain in a 6 to 12 hour period for rivers to reach bankfull.

Location	December 2018 Precipitation	Departure (Inches)
Pittsburgh	5.04	+2.19

Location	Dec Average Temperature	Departure Degrees	Extreme High	Extreme Low
Pittsburgh	35.3	2.9	63 on Dec 2	17 on Dec 10

	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:



8-14 Day Outlook... Temperatures will remain near or slightly above normal until near the end of this period when a pattern shift is anticipated. Precipitation is expected to be near normal.

Feb-March-Apr Outlook... Three month period will be slightly below normal as a result of colder than average temperatures for Feb. Temperatures closer to normal for the month of March. Precipitation is less defined but likely to be near normal for the period.

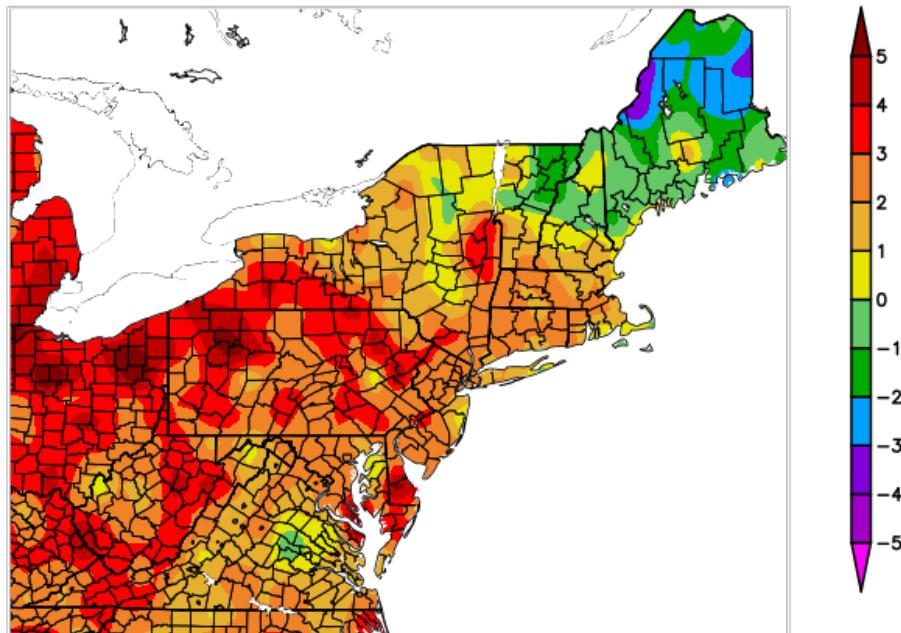
Spring Outlook (Mar-Apr-May): Will run near to slightly above normal with near normal precipitation. Precipitation in the 3.00 inch range per month

Average Yearly rainfall Pittsburgh: 38.19 inches In 2018: [57.83 \(+19.64\)](#)

Totals for: 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. **2018-2019:** 5.6" (-7.1); 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"

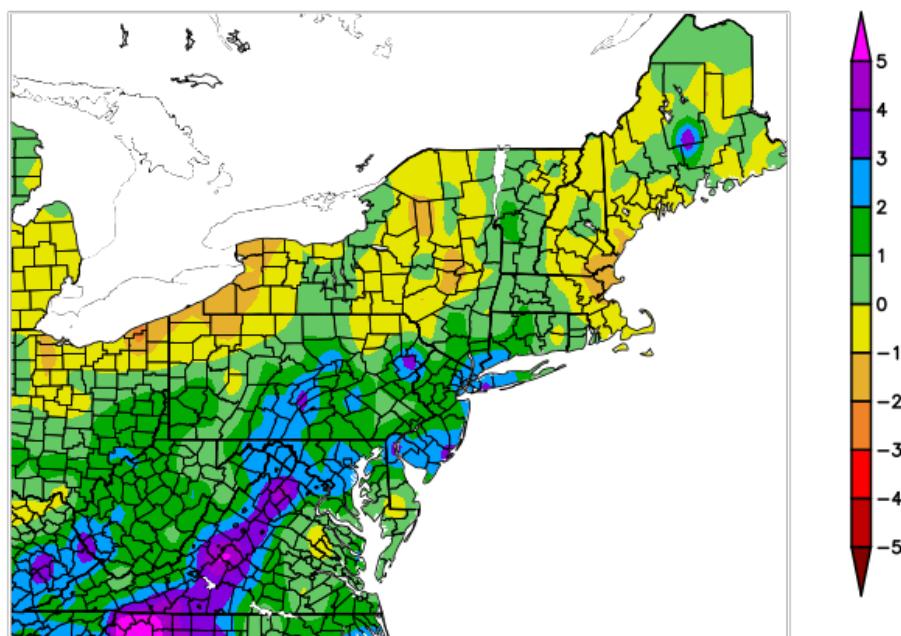
Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 12/1/2018 – 12/31/2018



Generated 1/6/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

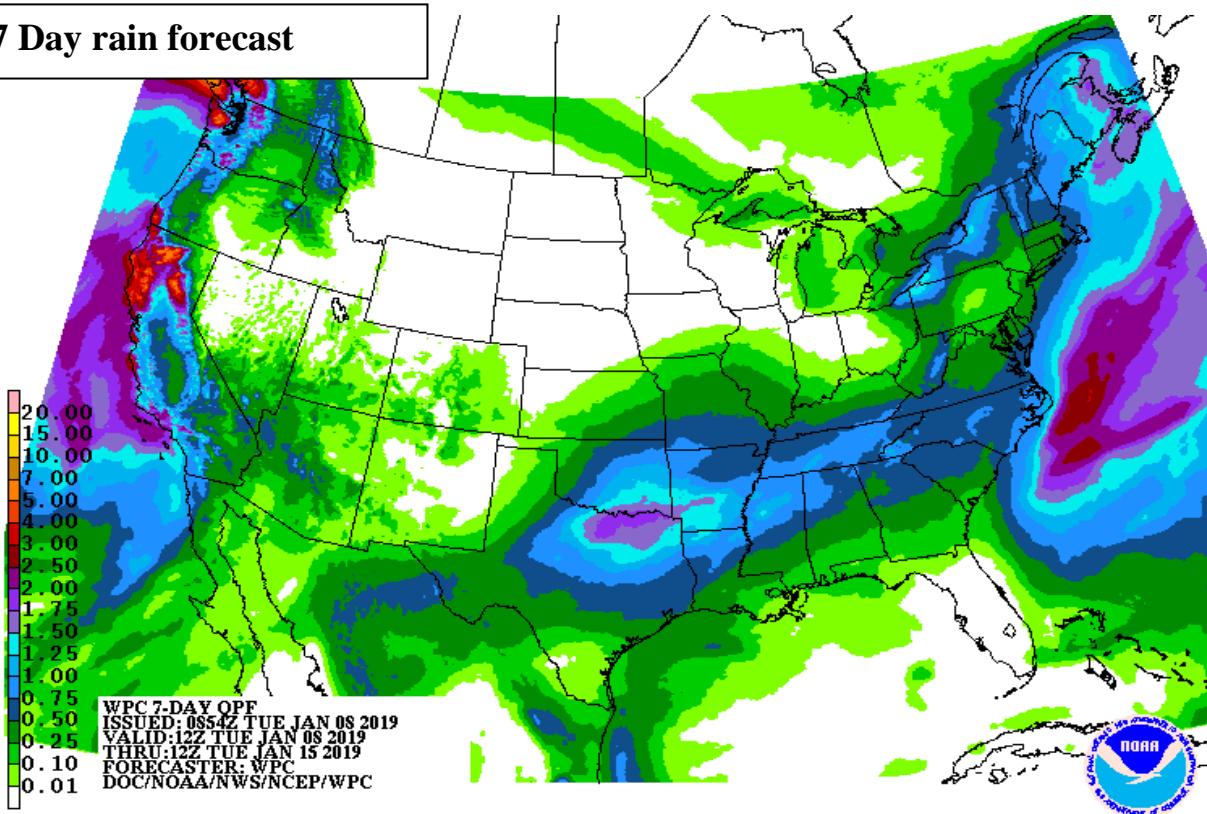
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in) 12/1/2018 – 12/31/2018



Generated 1/6/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

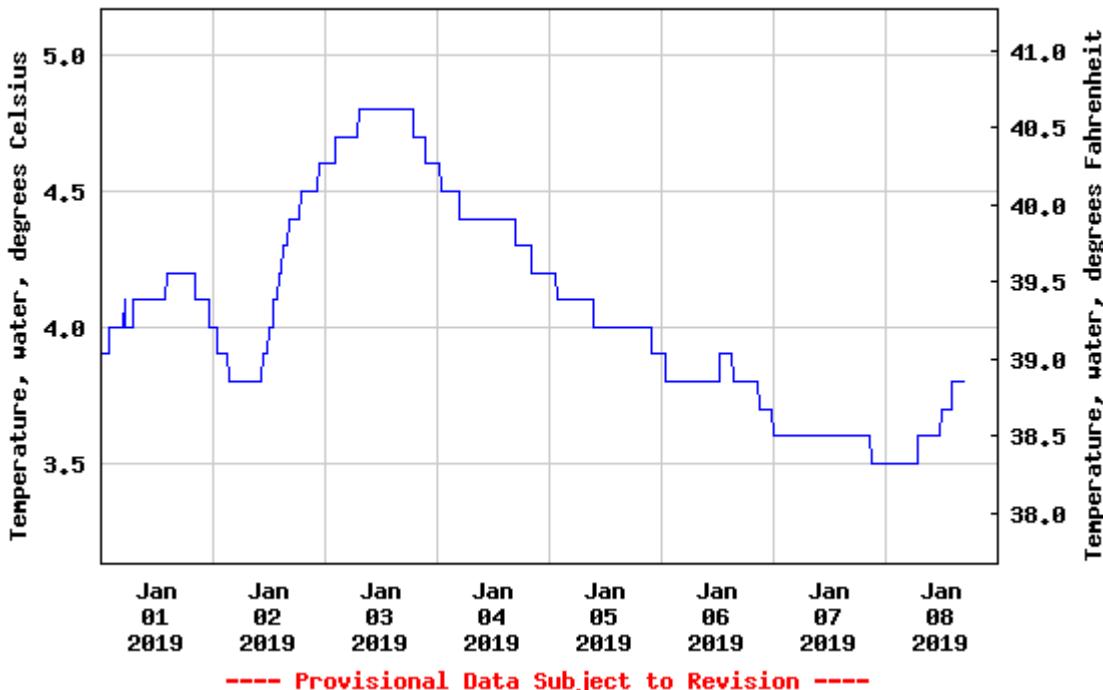
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

7 Day rain forecast



River Ice: Warmth in December did actually “warm” the rivers slightly. If cold snaps don’t occur as projected, ice season may not be as significant.

USGS 03049640 Allegheny R at CW Bill Young L&D at Acmetonia, PA



Link to current water temperatures: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/current?type=temp>

New River Ice Reporting Site: <https://sites.google.com/site/pittsburghriverice>

Email for photos: nws.er.pbz.icereports@noaa.gov