

Glen Allen Springfield Park, Virginia

May 2018

May's mean temperature was 73.7°F a +5.6°F departure the warmest May on record for Glen Allen. The average maximum was 84.4°F a +6.1°F departure and the average minimum was 62.9°F a +5.2°F departure. The maximum temperature for May was 93°F on the 12th which was 1°F from the highest temperature recorded at this station in May. The high minimum was 72.9°F on the 30th which was 1°F from the record high minimum for May. The low maximum for May was 73.6°F on the 7th which was a +11.9°F departure. The minimum temperature was 70°F or above on 6 nights; normally one would expect an average of 1.8 nights. The month's lowest minimum was 41.2°F on the 1st of May. **Note that on the graph for the month both the maximum and minimum were above the average for most days of May and the 1st was the only really cool day and in transitioning to the heat set a new 43°F temperature range record for May.** The strong heating on the 1st also lowered the relative humidity to 18% a new record for May. May was not only warm but humid on many days. The average relative humidity was 75.6 percent which was the 2nd highest for May; only 2016 was higher.

May, with 11.82 inches of precipitation, was not only the wettest May on record but also the wettest month on record with a +7.12 inch departure. The 5.09 inches of rain on the 18th set a new calendar day total for all months and the 6.10 inch total in 24 hours on the 17th and 18th set a new record for all months. The 1.83 inches in one hour on the 18th set a new record for May and the second greatest for all months. Glen Allen set new daily rainfall records for four consecutive days from May 16th to May 19th.

The total wind run of 2337.9 miles was a new record for May. The average daily wind run was 75.4 miles which was also a new record for the month. The maximum wind for the month preceding a thunderstorm was 47 mph on the 14th at 1929 from the NNW, a new record for May and the strongest wind since June 25, 2012. May had 8 days with thunder the second greatest on record for May.

May was a little above average on cloudiness with 14 days with measurable rainfall. The thunderstorm of May 10th produced hail that was as large as 0.5 inches and lasted but four minutes damaging gardens plants. See the following link for the report on hail.

<http://www.glenallenweather.com/historylinks/2018/may/hail%205-10-2018.pdf>

2018 Spring in West Henrico Co. - Glen Allen, VA											
Months	TEMPERATURE					PRECIPITATION			SNOW		
	Max.	Min.	Mean	9 Yr. Ave.	Depart.	Total	9 Yr. Ave.	Depart.	Total	9 Yr. Ave.	Depart.
Spring											
Mar.	53.57	32.32	42.95	48.80	-5.9	2.62	3.67	-1.05	6.2	3.5	2.7
Apr.	67.83	43.49	55.66	59.39	-3.7	3.52	3.28	0.24	0.5	0.0	0.5
May	84.41	62.94	73.68	68.03	5.6	11.82	4.70	7.12	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUM	205.82	138.74	172.28	176.23	-3.9	17.96	11.64	6.32	6.7	3.5	3.2
AVE.	68.61	46.25	57.43	58.74	-1.3	5.99	3.88	2.11	2.2	1.2	1.1

This was the wettest spring Glen Allen Springfield Park has ever had; the previous record was 2014. This spring had the most snow since the cold spring of 2013.

It is surprising that after the warmest May on record that the spring was the 3rd coolest on record because both March and April were below average.

This spring was poor for gardening as April was below average and the first nine days of May had no measurable rain and the first rain on the 10th came with 0.5 inch hail. Then on the 14th another thunderstorm had 47 mph winds that flattened some tomato plants. This was followed by rain so heavy it rotted all the bean seeds not yielding one plant. Then with a second planting some seeds rotted.

Richmond International Airport

May was both the warmest since 1880 and the wettest on record since 1871 if the precipitation records taken by the Richmond Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company are used. The railroad was under the direction of Major Edmund Trewbridge Dana Myers at the time. The maximum precipitation in a calendar day was 3.86 inches on the 18th which is a new record for the Richmond International Airport for the month of May; the previous record was 3.22 inches in 1889.

May's mean temperature was 73.4°F a +7.0°F departure which made it the warmest May on record. The average maximum was 84.3°F a +6.4°F departure and the average minimum was 62.5°F a +7.5°F departure. The maximum temperature for May was 93°F on the 12th and the lowest was 42°F recorded on the 1st.

The Richmond International Airport had 7 daily records that either tied or were broken.

Record High Maximums

May 12nd 93°F new record - the old record 92°F in 2015, 1956, 1914

Record High Minimums

May 20th 71°F tied the record set in 1898.

May 30th 72°F new record - the old record 70°F in 2011, 1959

Record High Means

May 12th 79.5°F tied the record set in 2015, 1914

High Daily Temperature Range

May 01st 42°F tied the record set in 1930

Maximum Daily Precipitation

May 17th 2.67 inches new record - the old record 2.16 inches in 1932

May 18th 3.86 inches new record - the old record 3.22 inches in 1889

Spring 2018 Richmond International Airport											
Month	TEMPERATURE					PRECIPITATION			SNOWFALL INCHES		
	Max.	Min.	Mean	30 Year	Dep.	Actual	30 Year	Dep.	Actual	30 Year	Dep.
Mar.	53.9	33.8	43.9	48.6	-4.7	2.33	4.04	-1.71	4.0	0.6	-0.6
Apr.	68.0	43.4	55.7	58.2	-2.5	3.58	3.27	0.31	Trace	0.1	-0.1
May	84.3	62.5	73.4	66.4	+7.0	10.35	3.78	6.57	0.0	0	0.0
SUM	206.2	139.8	173.0	173.2	-0.2	16.26	11.09	5.17	4.0	0.7	3.3
AVE.	68.7	46.6	57.7	57.7	-0.08	5.42	3.70	1.72	1.3	0.2	1.1

March and April were rather cold, particularly March, and even though May was the warmest on record the spring season was still a little cooler than average. May was the wettest May since 1871.