

## APRIL 2007

**Temperature:** The area observed below normal temperatures in April with negative departures of -2.5°F at DCA, -1.8°F at BWI, and -0.9°F at IAD. Unprecedented April cold enveloped the area from the 5<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. BWI's average temperature reading of 44.2°F was the coldest ever observed for this time frame; DCA's average of 44.3°F was second only to 1907. To put this in perspective, average temperatures in the first 2 weeks of January were more than 3.7°F warmer at DCA and 2.1°F warmer at BWI than those recorded during this period in April. Most areas observed highs only in the 40's on 5 consecutive days (5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>). In Washington, this was the most consecutive days of unseasonably cold temperatures since 1898. Additionally, subfreezing readings were reported across the region from the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and at many locations for as long as six consecutive days (6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>). DCA tied a daily record low of 29°F on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Temperatures briefly rebounded in the latter half of the month when five of the six 80°F readings observed during the last full week of the month. During the month's warmest period, 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, highs soared into the 80's, including a record high at IAD of 86°F. Despite several summer-like days, it was the coolest April in Washington in 24 years (see cover).

**Precipitation:** For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive April, the area recorded above normal precipitation with more than 3" of rainfall in portions of Northern Virginia and more than 5" across parts of Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, MD. Precipitation totals were 4.17" at DCA (Dep. Nml.: +1.40"); 5.00" at BWI (Dep. Nml.: +1.53") and 3.38" at IAD (Dep. Nml.: +0.16"). Echoing March, a major storm system impacted the area mid-month to provide the majority of the monthly precipitation. A steady rain developed the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup>, became heavy overnight and continued heavy at times throughout most of the 15<sup>th</sup> before diminishing late in the day. More than 2" was recorded throughout the area. BWI and DCA set daily rainfall records on the 15<sup>th</sup> with 2.52" and 2.41", respectively. The heavy rains caused rivers and creeks to overflow and washed out many roads throughout the region, resulting in reports of small stream and urban flooding. As the storm intensified off the northeast coast on the 16<sup>th</sup>, gale force northwest winds combined with saturated ground conditions resulted in numerous power outages as trees fell onto power lines. Winds gusted to 56 mph at IAD, 53 mph at BWI and 52 mph at DCA. The storm lingered and its winds continued to gust over 30 mph on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The second largest precipitation event occurred from the 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> when an overnight rainfall soaked the area with about 0.75" to a little over 1", including 1.12" in Gambrills, MD, (Anne Arundel County) and 1.01" in Alexandria, VA. The transition of the seasons was evident with two additional precipitation events during April. During the early morning hours on the 4<sup>th</sup>, the season's first thunderstorms rolled through the area, ushering in cold air after the storms. Rainfall amounts included 0.66" at BWI. A final taste of winter followed during the early morning hours of the 7<sup>th</sup> when a wet snow fell across most of the area with accumulations of about 0.5" on grassy surfaces in the metro area, the most snowfall in April at DCA (0.4") since 1972. Snowfall amounts were noticeably heavier across Southern Maryland as a southern track of the storm system brought accumulations of 2"- 4" to this area.

### APRIL 2007 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA

Location	Station Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (Inches)				
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNml	Max	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNml	Snow	Yr to Date
<b>National (DCA)</b>	62.6	44.6	53.6	56.1	-2.5	86/30	29/8	4.17	2.77	+1.40	0.4	12.04
<b>Baltimore (BWI)</b>	61.3	41.6	51.4	53.2	-1.8	85/23	26/9	5.00	3.00	+2.00	0.2	13.69
<b>Dulles (IAD)</b>	62.7	41.7	52.2	53.1	-0.9	86/23,30	27/8	3.38	3.22	+0.16	0.2	10.99

**Looking Ahead to May:** Do a few hot days in April predict a hot summer to come or will we revert to a cooler pattern? The earliest first 90°F+ reading in Washington was March 22, 1907 (90°F). The latest first 90°F+ reading in Washington was July 12, 1979 (93°F). Below is a list of the last 10 years and the date of the first 90°F or greater reading at DCA.

Year	First 90°+ Reading of Year at DCA	Year	First 90°+ Reading of Year at DCA
2006	May 20 (95°F)	2001	June 13 (93°F)
2005	June 28 (94°F)	2000	May 30 (90°F)
2004	April 19 (91°F)	1999	May 7 (92°F)
2003	June 26 (93°F)	1998	May 19 (90°F)
2002	April 16 (92°F)	1997	May 19 (96°F)