

JUNE 1996: Tropical-like weather enveloped the Washington/Baltimore area during much of the month, with oppressive humidity and numerous strong thunderstorms. On the evening of the 11th, a slow-moving line of thunderstorms moved from Loudoun County, VA into Montgomery County, MD. These storms generated torrential rains (up to 5 inches at some locations), causing some localized flooding. Another round of strong thunderstorms battered portions of the northern and western suburbs of Washington on the 18th and 19th, dumping up to 7 inches of rain on portions of Frederick, Washington, and Carroll counties in Maryland and over 13 inches in Gettysburg, PA, causing severe flooding and extensive property damage. The most severe weather occurred on the afternoon of the 24th when a “supercell” thunderstorm complex, similar to those that occur in the Great Plains, developed in western Loudoun County and moved rapidly eastward. These storms spawned a tornado (F2 – winds up to 150 mph) in Centreville, VA (Fairfax County), resulting in extensive damage to dozens of homes. The twister tracked eastward to Annandale, VA before dissipating, but then re-formed in eastern Prince George’s County, MD, causing additional damage. Most of the remainder of the area received heavy rains, strong wind gusts and intense cloud-to-ground lightning from these storms. In addition, numerous communities around Washington were left without electricity, some for more than a day. Additional rainfall during the month pushed monthly precipitation totals to between 6” and 12” in parts of Fairfax and Loudoun counties in VA and portions of Frederick County, MD. Of the local airports, only DCA reported subnormal monthly precipitation (for the sixth consecutive June).

Temperatures averaged above normal at all five airports, and for DCA it was only the second warmer than normal month since November 1995. There were only six days with 90°F+ highs and no days at or above 95°F, but when combined with very humid air, temperatures in the 80’s and 90’s often produced very uncomfortable conditions. Early in the month, unusually cool weather settled across the area and lows dipped into the forties across many of the suburban locations. Shortly thereafter muggy weather enveloped the region and lows in the seventies became quite common. In fact, DCA recorded 70°F+ lows on 14 days. For the month, temperatures at DCA averaged 1.6°F above normal, making it the 5th warmest June on record at the airport (seventh overall in Washington).

JUNE 1996 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)			
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmlT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm	Yr-to-Date
National (DCA)	86.4	68.0	77.2	75.6	+1.6	93/15*	54/1	3.14	3.38	-0.24	21.87
Baltimore (BWI)	84.5	62.0	73.3	72.5	+0.8	92/15%	45/1	4.08	3.67	+0.41	26.26
Dulles (IAD)	83.6	61.9	72.8	71.0	+1.8	90/22@	48/1#	4.88	3.92	+0.96	27.39
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	86.8	63.5	75.2	72	+3	95/22	45/1	4.31	3.7	+0.6	28.87
Andrew AFB (ADW)	86.1	65.4	75.8	72	+4	93/17	50/2	4.52	3.7	+0.8	24.41

Other occurrences: * June 22nd; % June 16th; @ June 30th; # June 3rd.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY: What’s ahead?

With the first month of the meteorological summer behind us, our attention turns to July (climatologically Washington’s hottest month). Below is a list of some of the July extremes that have occurred in Washington since records began in 1871. [July Normals: Avg. Temp. 80.0°F ; Precipitation: 3.80”]

Temperature

Hottest July: 1993* (Avg. Temp: 83.1°F)
 Coolest July: 1891 (Avg. Temp: 72.0°F)
 Record July Maximum Temp.: 106°F** (July 20, 1930)
 Record July Minimum Temp.: 52°F (July 4, 1933)
 Most July 90°F+ days: 24 (1993 and 1987)
 Most July 100°F + days: 6 (1930)
 Most consecutive July 90°F+ days: 16 (July 3–18, 1993)
 Most consecutive July 100°F+ days: 4 (July 19–22, 1930)
 Least July 90°F+ days: 0 (1891 – only such occurrence)

Precipitation

Wettest: 1945 (Total Prec.: 11.06”)
 Driest: 1972 (Total Prec.: 0.82”)
 Most precipitation in a calendar day: 4.69” (July 9, 1970)

* Warmest month ever recorded in Washington
 ** All-time record high in Washington (tied w/ August 6, 1918)