

October 2019

Springfield Park, Glen Allen, VA

October started out with record breaking heat. Drought conditions continued in Henrico from August 28th to October 15th and Henrico was asking for voluntary water restrictions on October 10th. On October 16th a low pressure formed on a cold front and moved up the coast giving Springfield Park 1.88 inches of rain. Then the remnants of Nestor gave 1.71 inches on the 20th. Before these rains the James River was 3.4 feet at the Westham gauging station. The total October precipitation was 5.39 inches, a 1.13 inch departure, with only 9 days with measurable precipitation which tied for the 3rd least on record. It was fortunate that the last half of the month was wet to help break the drought.

The highest temperature for the month was 98.4°F which was the highest ever recorded for October by 7.2°F in the past 11 years. The average maximum was 73.3°F, a 2.3°F departure, and the average minimum was 52.3°F which was a 3.2°F departure. The monthly mean temperature was 63.3°F a departure of 3.0°F and was the 2nd warmest October on record in the past 11 years. This October had 2 days with a temperature of ≥90°F. The lowest minimum temperature was 36.5°F on the 18th with a slight frost and even the sensitive plants survived.

October was the 3rd cloudiest on record and had a 77% average humidity. The average temperature range of 20.1°F which tied for the 3rd lowest on record.

The maximum wind gust of 42 mph on the 31st from a strong cold front set a new record maximum wind gust for October. The highest one-day wind run was also on the 31st with a wind run of 169.6 miles.

Richmond International Airport

The Richmond International Airport's average mean temperature was 63.8°F a departure of 4.1°F and the 7th hottest since 1897 and the 9th warmest since 1880. The average maximum was 73.9°F, a 2.9°F departure, and the average minimum was 53.7°F which was a 5.4°F departure and was the 6th warmest since 1897. This October had 2 days with temperatures of ≥90°F. October had 19 days the high temperature was ≥70°F. The maximum for the month was 98°F on the 2nd and the only year since 1897 that had a higher temperature in October was 1941 with a high of 99°F on October 6, 1941. The lowest maximum temperature for October was 61°F on the 26th and 30th and only October 1995 had a higher observation of 63°F.

The Airport had 4.66 inches of precipitation, a departure of 1.68 inches, with 9 days of measurable precipitation.

The Richmond International Airport had 5 daily records for the month. (Richmond Records since 1897)

2 Record High Maximums

- 1.Oct 02nd 98°F New Record - The old record was 91 in 1986.
- 2.Oct 03rd 97°F New Record - The old record was 94 in 1919.

2 Record High Daily Means

- 1.Oct 02nd 83.5°F New Record - The old record was 80.0 in 1986.
- 2.Oct 03rd 83.0°F New Record - The old record was 80.5 in 1919.

This third highest daily mean (warmest day) since 1897.

Only 1941 with a mean of 84.5 and 1986 with a mean of 84.0 were warmer.

1 High Daily Precipitation

- 1.Oct 16th 1.30 inches new record - The old record 0.85 inches in 1964.