

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PRECIPITATION EXTREMES
Top-20 Maximum and Minimum Daily, Monthly, and Annual Amounts
All Official Stations within the District Boundaries

(Measurements in Inches)

RANK	MAXIMUM CALENDAR-DAY PRECIP.	DATE(S)	LOCATION	RANK	MAXIMUM MONTHLY PRECIP.	DATE(S)	LOCATION	RANK	MAXIMUM ANNUAL PRECIP.	YEAR	LOCATION
1	7.37	6/26/2006	National Arboretum	1	17.45	9/1934	2416 M St NW	1	74.10	2018	Dalecarlia Reservoir
2	6.95	9/14/1966	U.S. Soldiers' Home	2	15.82	8/1955	Dalecarlia Reservoir	2	71.52	2003	National Arboretum
3	6.39	8/23/1933	2416 M St NW	3	14.87	8/1955	Bolling Field AFB	3	68.01	2018	National Arboretum
4	6.28	6/22/1972	National Arboretum	4	14.43	8/1955	National Arboretum	4	63.82	2020	National Arboretum
5	6.18	9/6/1979	National Arboretum	5	14.41	8/1928	2416 M St NW	5	63.34	2020	Dalecarlia Reservoir
6	6.14	8/2/1944	2400 M St NW	6	14.38	8/1955	2400 M St NW	6	61.33	1889	1744 G St NW/2416 M St NW
7	6.05	6/22/1972	U.S. Soldiers' Home	7	14.36	8/1906	2416 M St NW	7	61.07	1972	Dalecarlia Reservoir
8	6.00	8/12/1955	Bolling Field AFB	8	14.26	6/2006	Dalecarlia Reservoir	8	60.97	1975	U.S. Soldiers' Home
		8/13/1955	U.S. Soldiers' Home	9	14.11	8/1955	U.S. Soldiers' Home	9	60.09	1878	1719 G St NW
10	5.97	8/11/1928	2416 M St NW	10	13.72	9/1975	National Arboretum	10	59.48	2009	Dalecarlia Reservoir
11	5.93	8/13/1898	Distributing Reservoir (Georgetown)	11	13.36	9/1975	U.S. Soldiers' Home	11	58.23	1979	National Arboretum
12	5.92	6/22/1972	Dalecarlia Reservoir	12	13.20	6/1972	U.S. Soldiers' Home	12	58.17	1886	1719 G St NW
13	5.88	8/13/1955	National Arboretum	13	13.01	6/2006	National Arboretum	13	58.09	1996	Dalecarlia Reservoir
14	5.80	10/8/2005	Dalecarlia Reservoir	14	12.93	8/1875	2416 M St NW	14	57.61	1975	Dalecarlia Reservoir
15	5.73	6/26/2006	Dalecarlia Reservoir	15	12.78	6/1972	Dalecarlia Reservoir	15	57.28	1972	U.S. Soldiers' Home
16	5.50	9/14/1966	Dalecarlia Reservoir	16	12.77	7/1972	National Arboretum	16	56.63	1972	National Arboretum
17	5.44	9/7/2008	Dalecarlia Reservoir	17	11.76	9/2018	Dalecarlia Reservoir	17	56.56	1979	Dalecarlia Reservoir
18	5.36	8/11/2001	Dalecarlia Reservoir	18	11.61	9/1975	Dalecarlia Reservoir	18	56.42	1975	National Arboretum
19	5.32	9/26/1975	U.S. Soldiers' Home	19	11.57	8/1967	U.S. Soldiers' Home	19	56.41	1948	2400 M St NW
20	5.30	10/14/1955	National Arboretum	20	11.18	9/2018	National Arboretum	20	56.22	1983	Dalecarlia Reservoir

Data through 11/30/2025, Updated 12/12/2025

DATA SOURCE: 1) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI): "Local Climatological Data, Washington, DC - 24th & M St NW."

2) NCEI, "Maryland and Delaware Climatological Data" - numerous dates/years.

3) National Weather Service (NWS), Cooperative Observer Network original weather forms.

NOTES: 1) 24-Hour Amounts were recorded for the official station in downtown DC until these ceased being reported in the NCEI's Local Climatological Data publications in October 1959; the station ultimately closed on December 31, 1965. The Maximum 24-hour amount for Downtown was the 7.31" that fell 8/11-12/1928 at the 2416 M St NW location.

2) Washington Reagan National Airport is not included as it is in Virginia.

3) The National Weather Service has recently begun recognizing the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) as official stations when a state record has potentially been established. Only after research into each station's location, instrument siting/set-up, and observer interviews could the data then become official. If the following stations were to be declared official stations, their data, below, would supersede or tie the data in the above table:

4) In 2020, both Dalecarlia Reservoir and National Arboretum reported amounts that made the Top-20 Annual totals. Dalecarlia Reservoir reported at total of 63.34" with 7 missing days of data and National Arboretum reported 63.82" with 16 days of missing data. At the time of research, the original COOP forms were not available to review online to discover if any of the missing data was included in multiple-date totals.

5) There is additional pre-National Weather Service data available beginning in 1817 and is not included in the above tables. In that data, there are 3 events that would make the Top-20 lists:

a) A calendar-day total of 6.35" on 8/5/1857

b) An annual total of 57.82" in 1867

c) An annual total of 54.62" in 1836 but is interpolated from the Baltimore record.

MAXIMUM MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

Washington 5.1 NW: 13.35" in 8/2021

Washington 5.1 NW: 12.99" in 7/2022

Washington 5.0 WNW: 12.91" in 6/2006

The White House: 12.48" in 6/2015

Washington 2.0 SSW: 11.74" in 6/2015

MAXIMUM ANNUAL PRECIPITATION

Washington 5.1 NW: 75.81" in 2020 (which would supersede the existing annual extreme within Washington, DC of 74.10" in 2018 at Dalecarlia Reservoir)

Washington 5.1 NW: 68.82" in 2022

District of Columbia Precipitation Stations	
Location	Period of Record
1) Downtown	11/1/1870-12/31/1965
a) 1719 G St. NW	11/1/1870-8/14/1888
b) 1744 G St. NW	8/15/1888-3/21/1889
c) 2416 M St. NW	3/22/1889-3/4/1942
d) 2400 M St NW (24th & M)	3/5/1942-12/31/1965
2) Dalecarlia/Receiving Reservoir	11/1891-12/1905; 1/1946-12/1946; 8/1948-PRESENT
3) Distributing Reservoir (Georgetown)	11/1891-12/1905
4) American University	5/1917-10/1917
5) Howard University	5/1920-4/1921
6) Brightwood	11/1944-7/1948
7) Anacostia NAS	3/1945-12/1951; 9/1956-12/1956
8) National Arboretum	8/1948-PRESENT
9) U.S. Soldiers' Home	8/1948-12/1977
10) Bolling Field AFB	1/1949-7/1956

STATION DATA SOURCE: 1) NOAA, NCEI, "Local Climatological Data, Washington, DC - 24th & M St NW," 1957 Annual Summary, P.4;

2) NOAA, NCEI, "Maryland and Delaware Climatological Data" - numerous dates/years.