

FIVEMILE

GRAYSVILLE · CARDIFF · BROOKSIDE

THE MARCH 2026 EDITION

MONTHLY

March ran well warmer than usual and came in wetter than usual, and Five Mile Creek rose over the high water line twice.

This edition was put together on September 15, 2026, after the month was over, from the records as they stood. Its calls were worked out by the same rule as every other month, from what was on file before each month began.

MARCH ALONG THE CREEK

WEATHER

Our station

HOTTEST **87° on Mar 22**

COLDEST **24° on Mar 17**

RAIN **6.82 in**

NIGHTS AT FREEZING **4**

The average of the highs and lows came to 61.7 degrees, 5.7 degrees warmer than normal for March.

Our station measured 6.82 inches of rain, against a normal of 5.66 at the Birmingham airport. The wettest day was March 11, with 2.00 inches.

At the Birmingham airport, whose record goes back to 1930, it was the second warmest March on the books.

THE CREEK

Five Mile Creek at Republic

HIGHEST **7.38 ft on Mar 12**

LOWEST **1.30 ft on Mar 31**

DAYS AT HIGH WATER **3**

It reached the high water line, 3.5 feet at Republic, on three days, in two separate rises.

Its highest reading, 7.38 feet on March 12, was higher than the 6.17 feet the creek reaches in a typical March since 2008.

The high water line is the one the masthead uses. It is not a flood stage, because this gauge does not have one.

HOW THE CALLS DID

THE CALLS FOR MARCH

Temperature

NOAA

RIGHT

FIVEMILE

NO CALL

Set against the same month in 1991 to 2020 at the Birmingham airport, March finished in the warm third for temperature and the middle third for rain.

NOAA's outlook, issued February 28, gave a 70 percent chance of a warmer than normal month. That was right.

FIVEMILE made no call for March, because the record had no clear lean after a warm February.

Since August 2014, NOAA's temperature outlook for these three towns has been right 61 times and missed 33 times, with no lean 44 times. FIVEMILE has not made a call yet since January 2026. A call made by guessing would be right about one time in three.

CANDLEMAS

The old saying

THIS YEAR

DID NOT HOLD

Candlemas is February 2, an old church feast day that falls about halfway between the first day of winter and the first day of spring.

Candlemas this year was dry at the airport, and the six weeks after it ran milder than normal, so the saying did not hold in 2026.

IN LIKE A LION

The old saying

THIS YEAR

DID NOT HOLD

A lion is a rough start to the month and a lamb is a gentle end, and the saying runs the other way too. March came in gentle and went out gentle at the airport, so the saying did not hold in 2026.

APRIL AHEAD

THE OUTLOOK

April

NOAA	40% warmer
FIVEMILE	No call

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center gives these three towns a 40 percent chance of a warmer than normal April, and no lean either way on rain.

FIVEMILE has no call for April. After a warm March, the record has no clear lean.

FIVEMILE does not call rain. In the airport record a wet month is followed by a wet one no more often than chance would have it.

NORMAL APRIL

Birmingham airport

NORMAL HIGH	72° to 78°
NORMAL LOW	48° to 56°
NORMAL RAIN	5.08 in
RECORD HIGH	92° in 1987
RECORD LOW	26° in 1973

Normal highs at the Birmingham airport rise from 72 to 78 degrees over April, and normal rain for the month is 5.08 inches.

It froze at least once in April in 37 of the 96 years on the airport record, and the latest freeze on record in the month came on April 23, 1986.

THE SUN

April

DAYLIGHT ON THE 1ST	12 h 33 m
ON THE 30TH	13 h 30 m

The days gain 57 minutes of daylight over April, from 12 hours and 33 minutes on the 1st to 13 hours and 30 minutes on the 30th.

Dogwood winter

A cold snap comes every spring when the dogwoods bloom, and it is not safe to plant until it has passed.

Dogwood winter is the old name for the cold snap that comes when the dogwoods bloom, which in north Alabama is usually early to mid April.

The airport record can test it. It counts as come when a night in April runs at least 10 degrees colder than the normal low for its date, after the year's first day of 80 degrees. In the 96 years on the record, it held in 93.

Farmers' Almanac ↗ (<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/what-is-dogwood-winter>)

DATES IN APRIL

APR
01

CIVIC

Jefferson County tornado siren test

Jefferson County tests its outdoor warning sirens on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM. No action needed, it is a scheduled test.

APR
02

CIVIC

GRAYSVILLE

Graysville City Council meeting

Graysville's council meets twice a month, on the first and third Thursday, at 6:00 PM at Graysville City Hall.

APR
06

CIVIC

BROOKSIDE

Brookside Town Council meeting

Brookside's council meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at Brookside Town Hall. When that Monday falls on a holiday the meeting moves to the second Monday.

APR
13

CIVIC

CARDIFF

Cardiff Town Council Meeting

Cardiff Town Council meeting, the first step toward restarting active local government. All residents welcome. Cardiff Town Hall, 6:00 PM. No agenda required to attend.

APR
16

CIVIC

GRAYSVILLE

Graysville City Council meeting

Graysville's council meets twice a month, on the first and third Thursday, at 6:00 PM at Graysville City Hall.

APR
25

CIVIC

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Jefferson County HHW drop-off. The nearest site to these towns is First Baptist Church, Gardendale (940 Main St.). Accepts chemicals, paint, batteries, and other household hazardous materials. 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

Jefferson County (<https://www.jccal.org/Default.asp?ID=2294&pg=Electronics+Hazardous+Materials>)

WHERE THIS COMES FROM

The month's weather is the **FIVEMILE** weather station. Normals, ranks, records and the thirds a month is scored in are the official National Weather Service record kept at the Birmingham airport since 1930, set against 1991 to 2020. The creek is the [USGS gauge on Fivemile Creek near Republic \(https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/02457595/\)](https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/02457595/). The outlook is the monthly outlook from [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center \(https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/\)](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/), read at the middle of the three towns. The stories are the ones the news page ran, the sightings are iNaturalist's research grade records, and the dates are the calendar's. FIVEMILE's call is a rule written down in advance: it looks at how the month just gone finished and at what followed every earlier year that started the same way. Every sentence here was written ahead of time and filled in from those records, and no edition is changed after it runs.