

FIVEMILE

GRAYSVILLE · CARDIFF · BROOKSIDE

THE APRIL 2026 EDITION

MONTHLY

April ran a little warmer than usual and came in wetter than usual, and Five Mile Creek rose over the high water line once.

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.

APRIL ALONG THE CREEK

WEATHER

Our station

HOTTEST

89° on Apr 12

COLDEST

36° on Apr 20

RAIN

6.90 in

The average of the highs and lows came to 66.1 degrees, 2.5 degrees warmer than normal for April.

Our station measured 6.90 inches of rain, against a normal of 5.08 at the Birmingham airport. The wettest day was April 29, with 2.45 inches.

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

THE CREEK

Five Mile Creek at Republic

HIGHEST

4.07 ft on Apr 29

LOWEST

1.15 ft on Apr 28

DAYS AT HIGH WATER

2

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

Its highest reading, 4.07 feet on April 29, was lower than the 7.14 feet the creek reaches in a typical April 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 APRIL

Temperature

NOAA

RIGHT

FIVEMILE

NO CALL

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

NOAA's outlook, issued March 31, gave a 40 percent chance of a warmer than normal month. That was right.

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

Since August 2014, NOAA's temperature outlook for these three towns has been right 62 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.

DOGWOOD WINTER

The old belief

THIS YEAR

HELD

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.

It came this year: the airport got down to 41 degrees on April 20, 12 degrees under the normal low.

MAY AHEAD

THE OUTLOOK

May

NOAA

No lean

FIVEMILE

No call

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has no lean either way for May, on temperature or on rain.

FIVEMILE has no call for May. After a warm April, 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 MAY

Birmingham airport

NORMAL HIGH

79° to 85°

NORMAL LOW

57° to 65°

NORMAL RAIN

4.91 in

RECORD HIGH

99° in 1962

RECORD LOW

36° in 1971

Normal highs at the Birmingham airport rise from 79 to 85 degrees over May, and normal rain for the month is 4.91 inches.

THE SUN

May

DAYLIGHT ON THE 1ST

13 h 32 m

ON THE 31ST

14 h 14 m

The days gain 42 minutes of daylight over May, from 13 hours and 32 minutes on the 1st to 14 hours and 14 minutes on the 31st.

THE OLD BELIEF

Blackberry winter

A cool spell comes every May when the blackberries bloom.

Blackberry winter is the old name for the cool spell that comes when the blackberries bloom, usually early to mid May.

The airport record can test it. It counts as come when a night between May 1 and May 20 runs at least 10 degrees colder than the normal low for its date, after the year's first day of 85 degrees. In the 96 years on the record, it held in 75.

[Tennessee Historical Society](https://tennesseehistory.org/blackberry-winter-tennessee-little-winters/) ↗ (<https://tennesseehistory.org/blackberry-winter-tennessee-little-winters/>)

DATES IN MAY

MAY
THURSDAYS

MARKET

GARDENDALE

Gardendale Farmers Market

Growers set up on Thursday mornings at Bill Noble Park in Gardendale, which is close enough to be an ordinary errand from any of the three towns. It runs from nine until one, May through September.

MAY
04

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.

MAY
06

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.

MAY
07

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.

MAY
09

CIVIC

Electronics & Paper Shredding Drop-Off

Jefferson County electronics and paper shredding event at Center Point Satellite Courthouse, 2651 Center Point Parkway. Accepts computers, TVs, phones, printers, cables, and more. 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM.

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

MAY
12

CIVIC

CARDIFF

Cardiff City Council meeting

Cardiff City Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

MAY
21

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.

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.