

FIVEMILE

GRAYSVILLE · CARDIFF · BROOKSIDE

THE MAY 2026 EDITION

MONTHLY

May ran a little cooler 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.

MAY ALONG THE CREEK

WEATHER

Our station

HOTTEST **91° on May 17**

COLDEST **39° on May 3**

RAIN **6.92 in**

DAYS OF 90° OR MORE **4**

The average of the highs and lows came to 69.8 degrees, 1.7 degrees cooler than normal for May.

Our station measured 6.92 inches of rain, against a normal of 4.91 at the Birmingham airport. The wettest day was May 22, with 1.77 inches.

THE CREEK

Five Mile Creek at Republic

HIGHEST **4.18 ft on May 24**

LOWEST **1.18 ft on May 18**

DAYS AT HIGH WATER **1**

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

Its highest reading, 4.18 feet on May 24, was lower than the 4.94 feet the creek reaches in a typical May 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.

SIGHTINGS

Lower creek

NEW TO THE ROLL

13

13 species were recorded along the lower creek for the first time on file, among them Carolina Mantis, Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad, and Black Kingsnake.

HOW THE CALLS DID

THE CALLS FOR MAY

Temperature

NOAA

NO CALL

FIVEMILE

NO CALL

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

NOAA's outlook, issued April 30, had no lean either way on temperature, so there was nothing to score.

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

Since August 2014, NOAA's temperature outlook for these three towns has been right 62 times and missed 33 times, with no lean 45 times. FIVEMILE has not made a call yet since January 2026. A call made by guessing would be right about one time in three.

BLACKBERRY WINTER

The old belief

THIS YEAR

HELD

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

It came this year: the airport got down to 41 degrees on May 3, 16 degrees under the normal low.

JUNE AHEAD

THE OUTLOOK

June

NOAA

No lean

FIVEMILE

No call

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center gives these three towns no lean either way on temperature, and a slight lean toward a wetter than normal June.

FIVEMILE has no call for June. After a middle May, 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 JUNE

Birmingham airport

NORMAL HIGH

86° to 90°

NORMAL LOW

65° to 71°

NORMAL RAIN

4.78 in

RECORD HIGH

106° in 1931

RECORD LOW

42° in 1966

Normal highs at the Birmingham airport rise from 86 to 90 degrees over June, and normal rain for the month is 4.78 inches.

THE SUN

June

DAYLIGHT ON THE 1ST

14 h 15 m

ON THE 30TH

14 h 21 m

SUMMER SOLSTICE

Jun 21

The days gain 6 minutes of daylight over June, from 14 hours and 15 minutes on the 1st to 14 hours and 21 minutes on the 30th.

The summer solstice comes on June 21.

DATES IN JUNE

JUN 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.

JUN
01

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.

JUN
03

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.

JUN
04

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.

JUN
09

CIVIC

CARDIFF

Cardiff City Council meeting

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

JUN
12

COMMUNITY

BROOKSIDE

Five Mile Creek Rubber Duck Race

Registration at noon at the Brookside Ballpark and the race starts at one. Tickets are \$20 for a chance at \$1,000, and the proceeds go back into community events.

JUN
13

CIVIC

Electronics & Paper Shredding Drop-Off

Jefferson County electronics and paper shredding event at Valley Reclamation Facility, 3923 Clear Water Drive, Bessemer. 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>)

JUN
18

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.

JUN
21

SKY

Summer Solstice

The longest day of the year.

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.