

March Storm Brings Record Rainfall

By Don Sutherland

March 23, 2024 will go into the record books as producing the third highest daily rainfall on record for New York City (3.66”), where records go back to 1869. Philadelphia saw its biggest March daily rainfall on record with 3.09”. Philadelphia’s records go back to 1872.

Climate change has led to an increase in intense rainfall events in the northern Mid-Atlantic Region. The 2000-2024 period accounts for 23% of both New York City’s and Philadelphia’s 3” or above daily rainfall amounts. The 2000s account for 16% of New York City’s and Philadelphia’s climate records.

Annual rainfall has also increased. Prior to 2000, annual rainfall averaged 44.54” in New York City. Since 2000, rainfall has averaged 51.65” per year. Prior to 2000, annual rainfall averaged 41.13” in Philadelphia. Since 2000, rainfall has averaged 45.70”.

The heavy rain, which was highlighted by 0.90” hourly rainfall in Central Park, produced widespread riverine and street flooding. Two photos:



Larchmont, New York



Mamaroneck, New York