

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Minnesota

Location	Type	Years	Details
Alexandria	WBAS	1937-1939	A Weather Bureau Airways Station operated at the Alexandria airport from 9/1937 to 8/1940, then was taken over by the CAA.
Chanhassen	WFO RFC	1995-present	The Twin Cities forecast office was moved to the suburb of Chanhassen in March 1995. It assumed upper air functions from the St. Cloud NWS office around this time. It is also home to the North Central River Forecast Center (NCRFC), as well as the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC).
<u>Duluth</u>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1870-present	Duluth was one of the 24 initial Signal Service offices, established in 1870. In 1890, functions were transferred to the new Weather Bureau, which occupied several sites downtown through 1940. In 1940, operations also began at the Duluth Airport; the city office was closed in 1950. Among technology advances during the years were the WSR-74C radar in 1977; the Automation of Field Operations and Services (AFOS) computer in 1979; the WSR-88D radar in 1995, and the Advanced Weather Information Processing System (AWIPS) in 1998. The office moved to new facilities on the airport grounds in 1996.
Farmington	CWSU	? - present	The Minneapolis-area Center Weather Service Unit operates out of the ARTCC in Farmington.
Grand Marais	WBO	1944-1946	The Weather Bureau established a 1st-order station in March 1944, taking 6-hourly observations. It closed at the end of June 1946.
International Falls	WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO	1939-present	The Weather Bureau established a facility at the Municipal Building in 1939, before moving to the Municipal Airport in 1946. Upper-air observations began in 1942. The Weather Service established a contract meteorological observatory in 1997 to monitor the newly commissioned ASOS, and take the upper-air observations, after general operations were combined with the Duluth office; the ASOS monitoring by the WSCMO was discontinued in 2000.
Minneapolis	WBO FAWS RDO RFC WSFO	1890-1995	The new U.S. Weather Bureau established an office in downtown Minneapolis 9/23/1890, and official observations for the Twin Cities was moved here shortly afterward. It also relayed the forecasts that were issued by the St. Paul office. Another office was opened at Wold-Chamberlain Field (i.e. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport) in 1934 to take aviation weather observations, and the official observation site was moved here in 1938. Weather and river forecast responsibilities were moved to the downtown Minneapolis office in the 1940's from the St. Paul office, and was moved to the airport site in the late 1940's. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was added in January 1944. The downtown office was closed in March 1965. The airport office remained, though, and by the early 1960's, a WSR-57 radar was installed. In June 1979, staff began to arrive at the newly created North Central River Forecast Center . Both the forecast office and the RFC were relocated to a co-located facility in Chanhassen in 1995.
Moorhead	SigSvc WBO	1881-1934	The Signal Service opened up an office to cover the Fargo/Moorhead area in 1881, and it was taken over by the Weather Bureau in 1890. It was located at 3 different locations in Moorhead until 1934, when operations were transferred to Hector Field in Fargo, ND.

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Minnesota

Rochester	WBAS WSO WSCMO	1943-1997	A Weather Bureau Airways Station opened at the Rochester Airport in 1943, taking over observations from the CAA. It, along with the entire airport operations, were moved to a new facility in September 1960; a WSR-3 was commissioned at the same time. The radar was replaced with a WSR-74C in April 1976. Operations were transferred to a WSCMO in June 1996, after ASOS was commissioned, and the FAA took over responsibility by the end of 1997.
St. Cloud	WBAS WBO WSO WSCMO	1931-1999	A Weather Bureau Airways Station was established in 1931 at Tourist Park, and replaced by a new site in February 1936 at Whitney Airport. This was moved to the new Municipal Airport (aka St. Cloud Regional Airport) in February 1972. A rawinsonde station was established in June 1947, then moved to the Twin Cities in 1995. The WSO was replaced by an NWS Contract Meteorological Office in June 1995, which operated until the end of May 1999.
St. Paul	SigSvc WBO	1871-1948?	The U.S. Signal Service opened its downtown St. Paul office in January 1871, and this location served as the official observing site for the Twin Cities until 1890. After this transfer, the Weather Bureau planned to close this office, but remained open after numerous protests. This site then began issuing weather forecasts, and relaying/receiving weather data from headquarters in Washington DC. This office was moved to Holman Field around 1930 to take aviation observations, and the forecast responsibilities were transferred to the Minneapolis office in the 1940's.
Willmar	WBO	1943-1944	This station operated for about a year before operations were transferred to the CAA.
