



Drought Information Statement for Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana

Valid March 25, 2026

Issued By: WFO Chicago, Illinois

Contact Information: nws.chicago@noaa.gov

- The next scheduled update is April 23, 2026, or sooner if drought conditions worsen significantly
 - Current statements: drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
 - Previous local statements: www.weather.gov/lot/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
 - Regional Updates: www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=54&state=All
-
- Drought conditions continue across portions of northern Illinois and northwest Indiana.



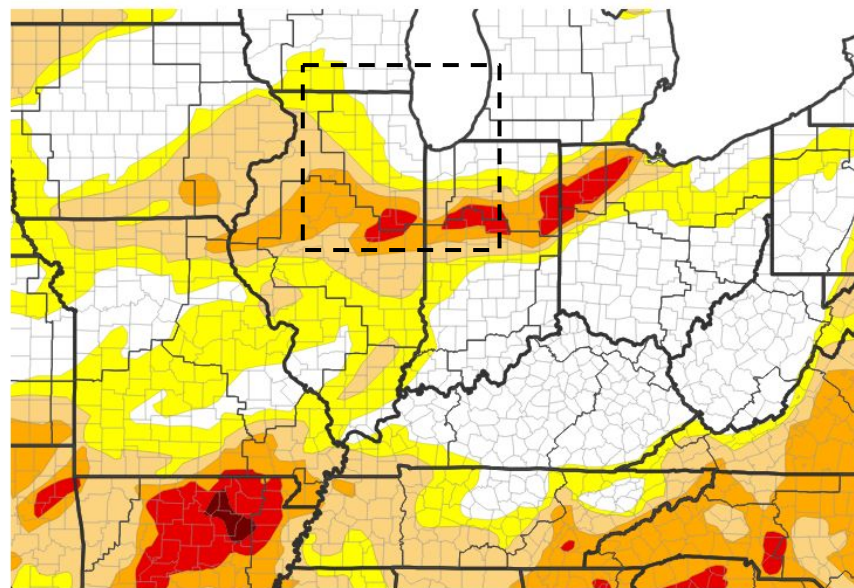


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: In Illinois: Far southeastern Livingston, southern Ford, and southwestern Iroquois counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: In Indiana: Benton County. In Illinois: portions of Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, LaSalle counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: In Illinois: Portions of Lee, LaSalle, Livingston, Ford, Iroquois counties. In Indiana: Portions of Newton and Jasper counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: In Illinois: Portions of Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Lee, DeKalb, Kane, LaSalle, Grundy, and Kankakee counties. In Indiana: Portions of Newton and Jasper counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/17/26



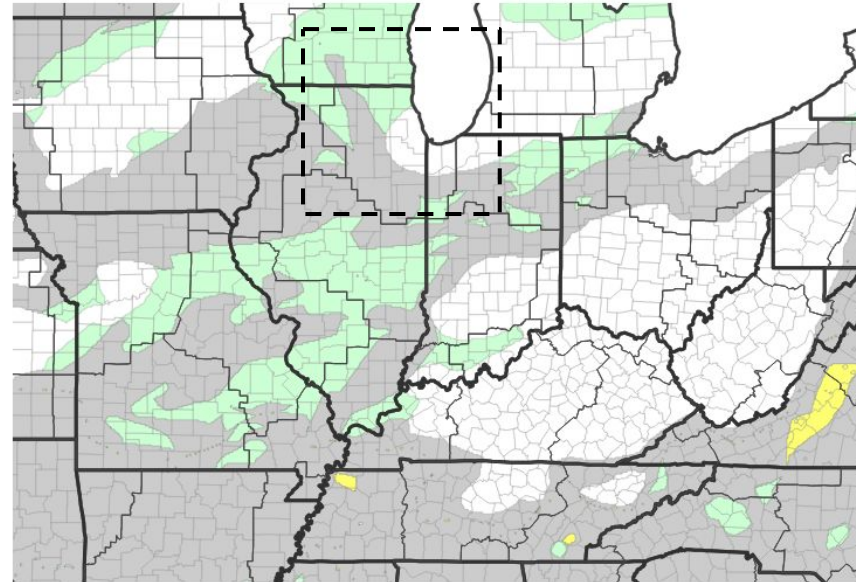


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

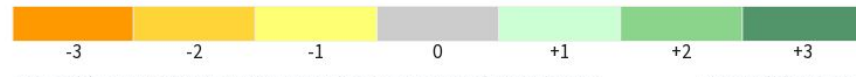
Link to the latest [drought changes map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - A few areas in northern Illinois experienced a 1 category improvement in drought conditions.
 - Largest areas of drought status change were in McHenry, Lake, DeKalb, and Benton counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



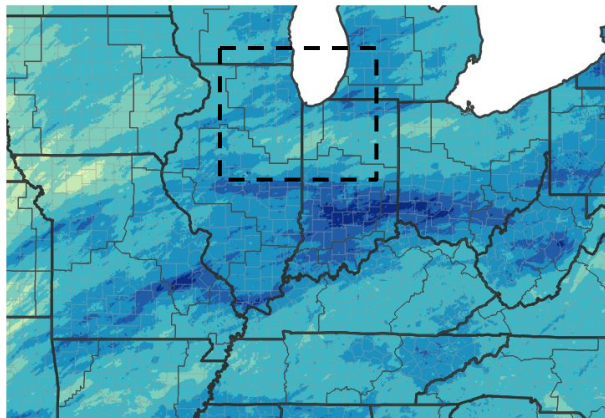


Precipitation

Link to [latest temperature and precipitation maps from MRCC](#)

- 30-day precipitation has been above average in most areas except for portions Livingston, Ford, Iroquois, Newton, Jasper, and Benton counties.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



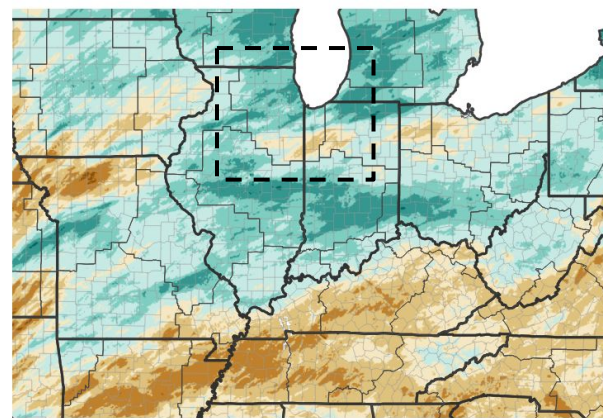
Inches of Precipitation



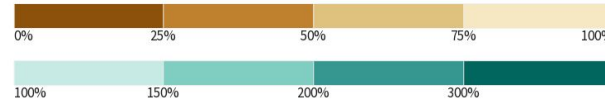
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/25/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

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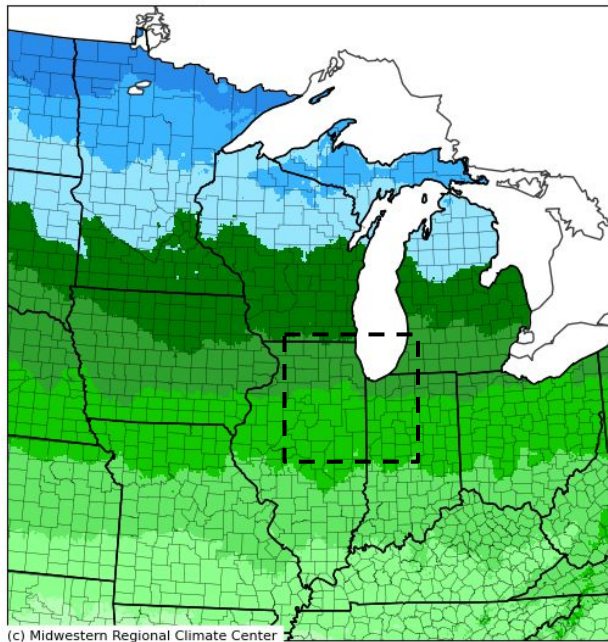


Temperature

Link to [latest temperature and precipitation maps from MRCC](#)

- From late February into early and mid March, temperatures averaged above the long term average in all areas.
- The most anomalously warm temperatures were toward central Illinois and central Indiana.

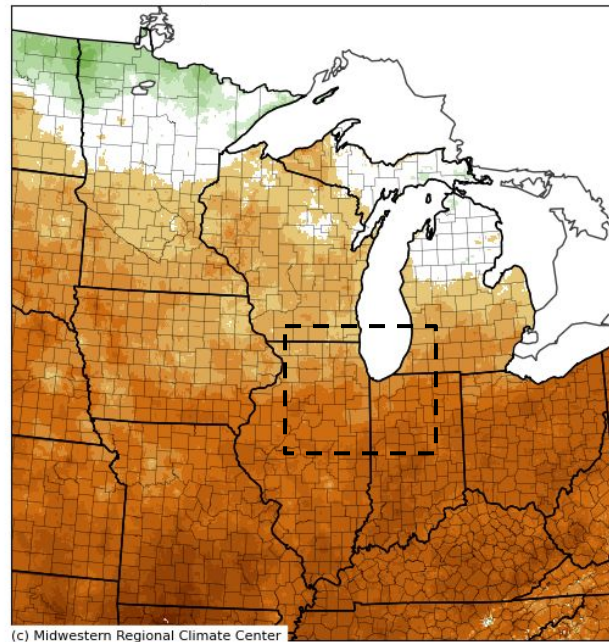
Average Temperature (°F)
February 23, 2026 to March 24, 2026



Source: PRISM Weather Data

Generated on: Wed Mar 25, 2026 11:00:21 EDT

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
February 23, 2026 to March 24, 2026



Source: PRISM Weather Data

Generated on: Wed Mar 25, 2026 11:00:28 EDT



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Summary of Impacts

View or submit a [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Rivers across portions of central Illinois and central Indiana range from below average to much below average. Some groundwater sensors across northeastern Illinois indicate water table levels below average.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- No burn bans are known to be in effect across the NWS Chicago forecast area.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

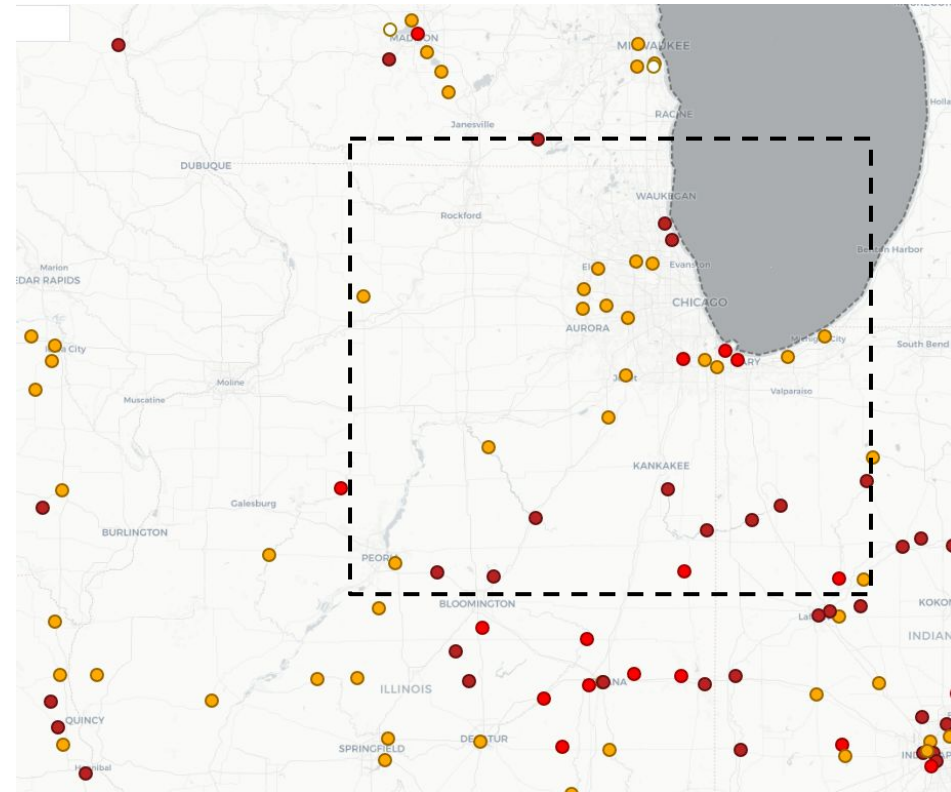
- None reported.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- River streamflow values are much below average from central Illinois into central Indiana. A few areas in northeastern Illinois and far northwestern Indiana are below average.
- River streamflow values are near average across most of Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois.



USGS low streamflow map valid 2026/03/25





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Significant wildfire risk is elevated over the next few days due to dry weather and windy conditions.
- No known burn bans across the area.

Latest Indiana Burn Ban map available [here](#).

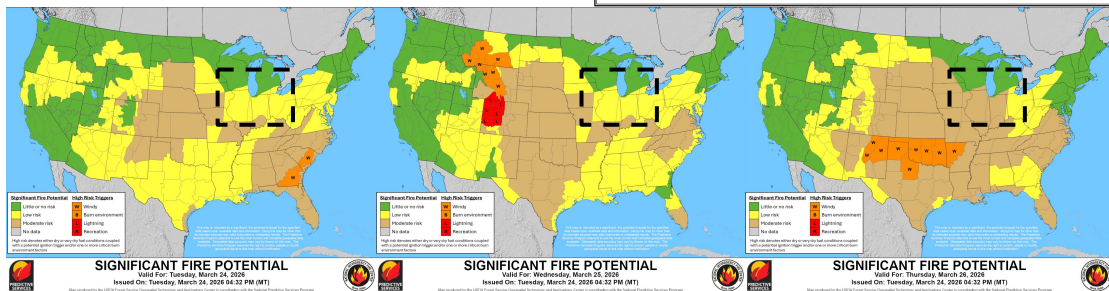
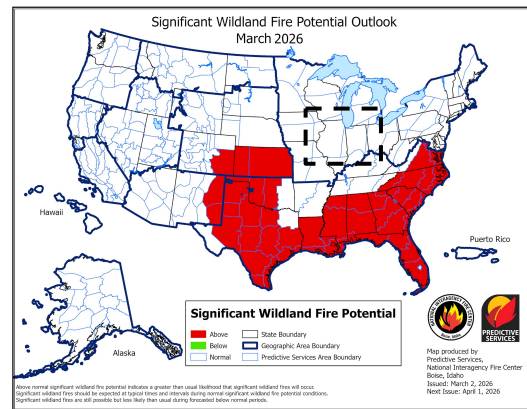


Image Captions:

Top: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#)

Bottom: [Wildland Fire Potential Daily Forecasts](#) (Today, Tomorrow, Day 3)



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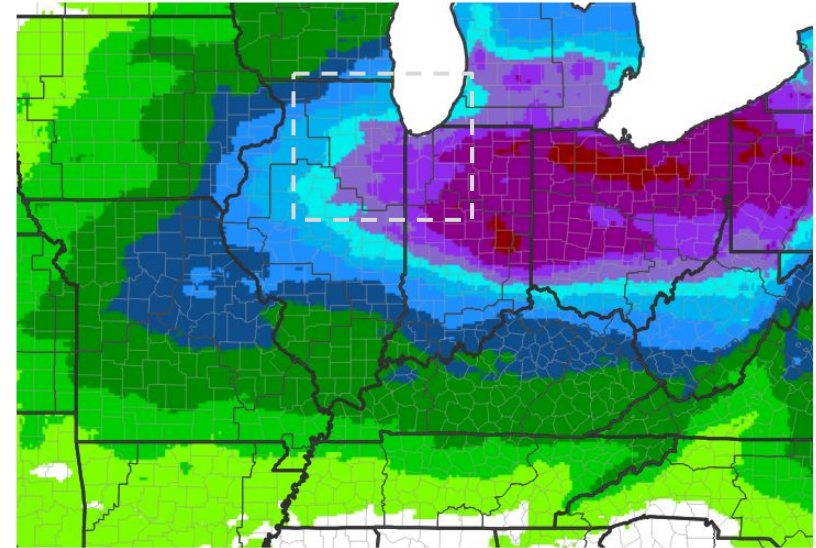
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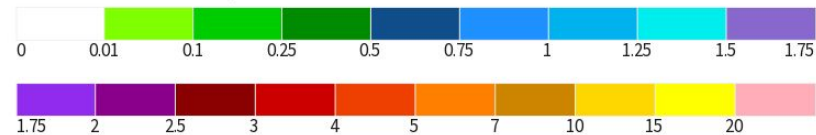
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall is forecasted across the area over the next 7 days, with the heaviest rainfall forecasted from east central Illinois across northern and central Indiana.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 25, 2026–April 1, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/25/26

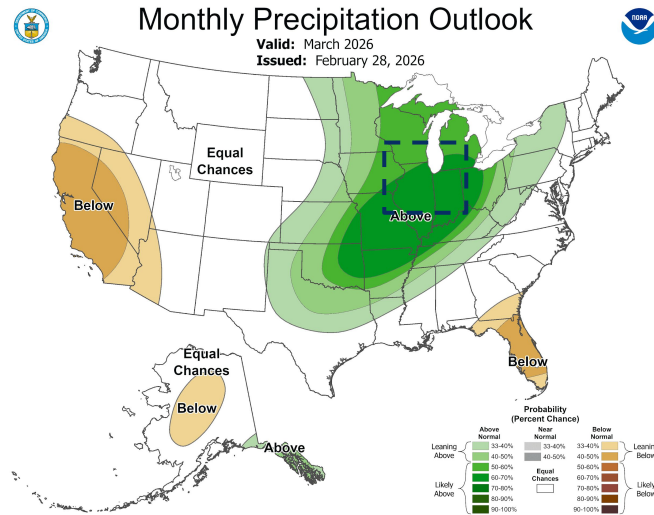
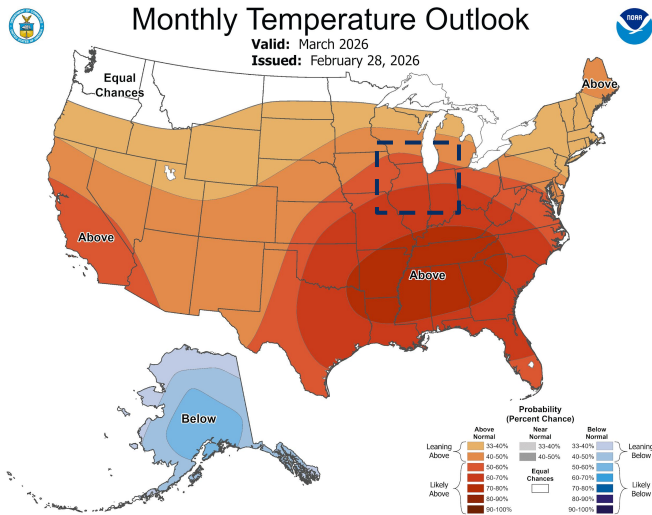




Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation is favored for the month of March across the area.



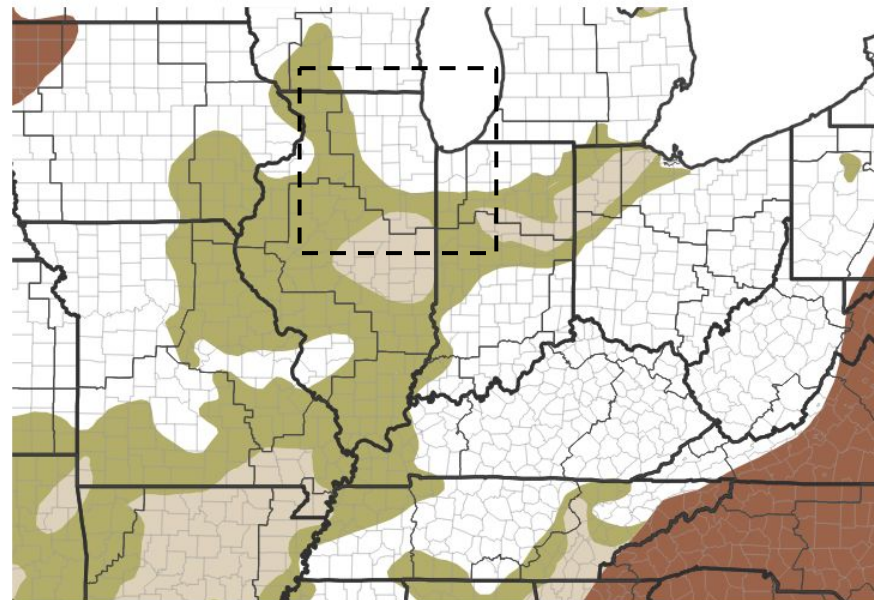


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The monthly drought outlook from the Climate Prediction Center indicates that drought is likely to improve across Illinois and Indiana.

1-Month Drought Outlook for March 1, 2026–March 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 02/28/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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