



June 5, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Metro Vancouver Water Restrictions Impacts - Board Briefing Memo**

---

Dear Commissioners,

This memo provides an update on the 2026 activation of Metro Vancouver’s Drinking Water Conservation Plan. Each Year, Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions, including City of Vancouver, automatically activate Stage 1 water use restrictions from May 01 to October 15.. Stage 1 restrictions focus on limiting outdoor water use, particularly lawn watering.

This year, local snowpack levels are at 55% of the historical average. While reservoirs are currently full, anticipated drought conditions and work related to the Stanley Park water supply tunnel replacement are expected to strain the regional water system this summer. Metro Vancouver’s Chief Administrative officer directed the activation of **Stage 2 water use restrictions effective May 01, 2026**. Which include a ban on lawn and boulevard watering and the filling of aesthetic water features.

Metro Vancouver will move to **Stage 3 water restrictions** effective June 8, 2026. Under stage 3 hand watering only for native plantings will be permitted.

**Overview:**

From May 1 to October 15 the Park Board will comply with the following restrictions laid out in the Metro Vancouver’s Drinking Water Conservation Plan with the identified exceptions.

Service	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Watering lawns and boulevards	1 x week	No	No	No
Watering new lawns or lawns under treatment for Japanese beetle	Yes	Yes (with permit)	Yes (until permit expires)	No
Watering trees, shrubs, and flowers excluding edible plants	Yes (4am – 9am with sprinkler or anytime by hand )	Yes (4am – 9am with sprinkler or drip irrigation)	Yes (anytime by hand – no sprinkler or soaker hose)	No
Watering soil-based playing fields	Yes (any day between 7pm-9am)	Yes (max 4 days/week)	Yes (max 3 days/week)	No
Watering sand-based playing fields	Yes (any day between 7pm-9am)	Yes (any day between 7pm-9am)	Yes (max 5 days/week)	No



Spray Parks	Yes	Yes	Yes (as long as push button operated)*	No
Topping up aesthetic water features	Yes	No	No	No
Topping up pools or hot tubs	Yes	Yes	No (except with permit)	No

*\*All Park Board's spray parks are operated via push button*

**Watering Exceptions (Designated Sites)**

Manual watering is permitted at the following locations due to limited/no automated irrigation and to protect horticultural assets. Lawn watering is restricted unless noted. Park Board responsible for signage.

- **Stanley Park** – Manual watering permitted (gardens and non-irrigated areas).
- **VanDusen Botanical Garden** – Manual watering permitted, including Great Lawn.
- **Queen Elizabeth Park (Quarry Gardens)** – Manual watering for plantings only; no lawns.
- **Brock House** – Manual watering for gardens only; no lawns.
- **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden** – Manual watering permitted (all areas).

Approved Water Management Plans remain in place through all stages of Metro Vancouver's Drinking Water Conservation Plan for Park Board Golf Courses.

Water Use plans have also been approved to cover the World Cup training facility at Killarney Park as well as specific areas of destination parks.

Regards,

Steve Jackson  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

JM/V

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications