

VANCOUVER WATER ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

A Tale of a Few Cities. Neal Klassen, November 13, 2023



British Columbia

Lawn watering to be banned across Metro Vancouver amid continuing drought



This is the first time restrictions have been raised

Srushti Gangdev · CBC News · Posted: Aug 01, 2023 4:...

Nearly 900 warnings, fines issued for breaking Vancouver's water restrictions

By **Kristen Robinson & Elizabeth McSheffrey** · Global News
Posted August 9, 2023 6:30 pm



Automated sprinklers water the lawn in front of a modern apartment building.

VANCOUVER | News

Vancouver issues \$76K in fines for illegal watering in less than 4 weeks



PROVINCE TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON DROUGHT AND WILDFIRES

Home > Local News

As regional restrictions escalate, lawn watering will be prohibited in Vancouver

Violation of these regulations may result in a \$500 fine.

Aryan Chambyal
Aug 2, 2023 12:46 PM



October 15. On Aug. 4, the...
ck/Getty Images Plus/Getty

Season Totals as of Aug. 6.:

358 violation tickets
\$93,000

539 warning tickets

Source: City of Vancouver



A Few Cities

- Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation
- Share water source and wastewater treatment
- Metro determines watering restrictions, but it is up to municipalities to enforce
- Vancouver has been the only municipality with a program to enforce the restrictions



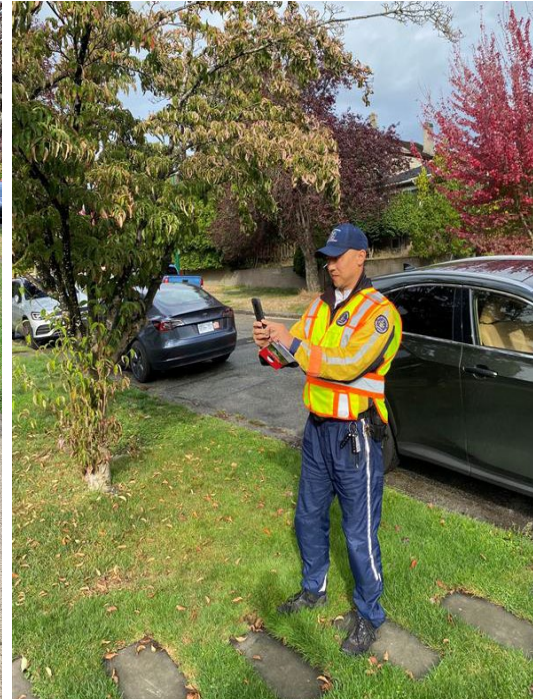
Seasonal Watering Restrictions

- In 2022, number of watering days for residential lawns was reduced from two days a week to one day a week
- Metro uses multi-media to promote restrictions, which are supplemented by Vancouver's own promotion
- Three full time enforcement officers, seven days a week, covering day time, evening, and overnight

	 RESIDENTIAL LAWNS	 TREES SHRUBS, FLOWERS	 VEGETABLE GARDENS	
STAGE 1 1 May 1 – Oct 15	EVEN ADDRESS Saturday ODD ADDRESS Sunday <hr/> AUTOMATIC WATERING 5am – 7am MANUAL WATERING 6am – 9am	 HAND WATERING SOAKER HOSE or DRIP IRRIGATION Anytime	 SPRINKLERS Any day 5am – 9am	Anytime
STAGE 2 2	 LAWN WATERING PROHIBITED	 HAND WATERING SOAKER HOSE or DRIP IRRIGATION Anytime	 SPRINKLERS Any day 5am – 9am	Anytime

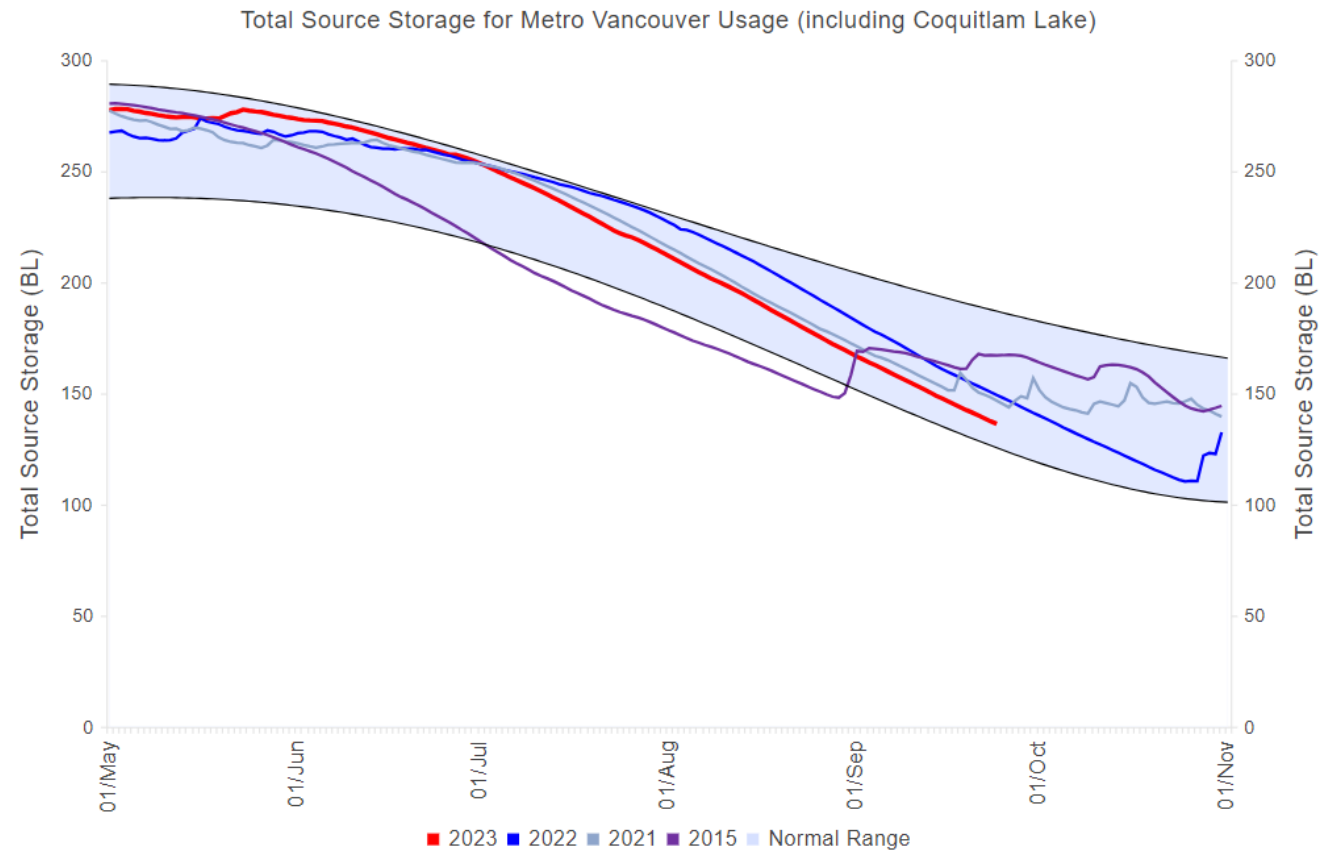
A Tale of a Few Cities

1. Regular patrol: \$250 fines
2. Public reported violations: warning letters



Drought-Driven Enforcement Program

- Drought of 2015 was a wakeup call
- Started enforcing water restrictions with fines
- Heat dome of 2021 and drought of 2023 suggest new normal
- Metro facing \$billions in storage expansions over next 50 years



2023 Drought

- Rain events down by 19%
- Reservoirs still within normal range, but depleting quickly
- Stage 2 restrictions put in place on August 4
- No lawn watering at all



Have an automatic watering system? Book a free appointment with our City of Vancouver Water Conservation advisors!

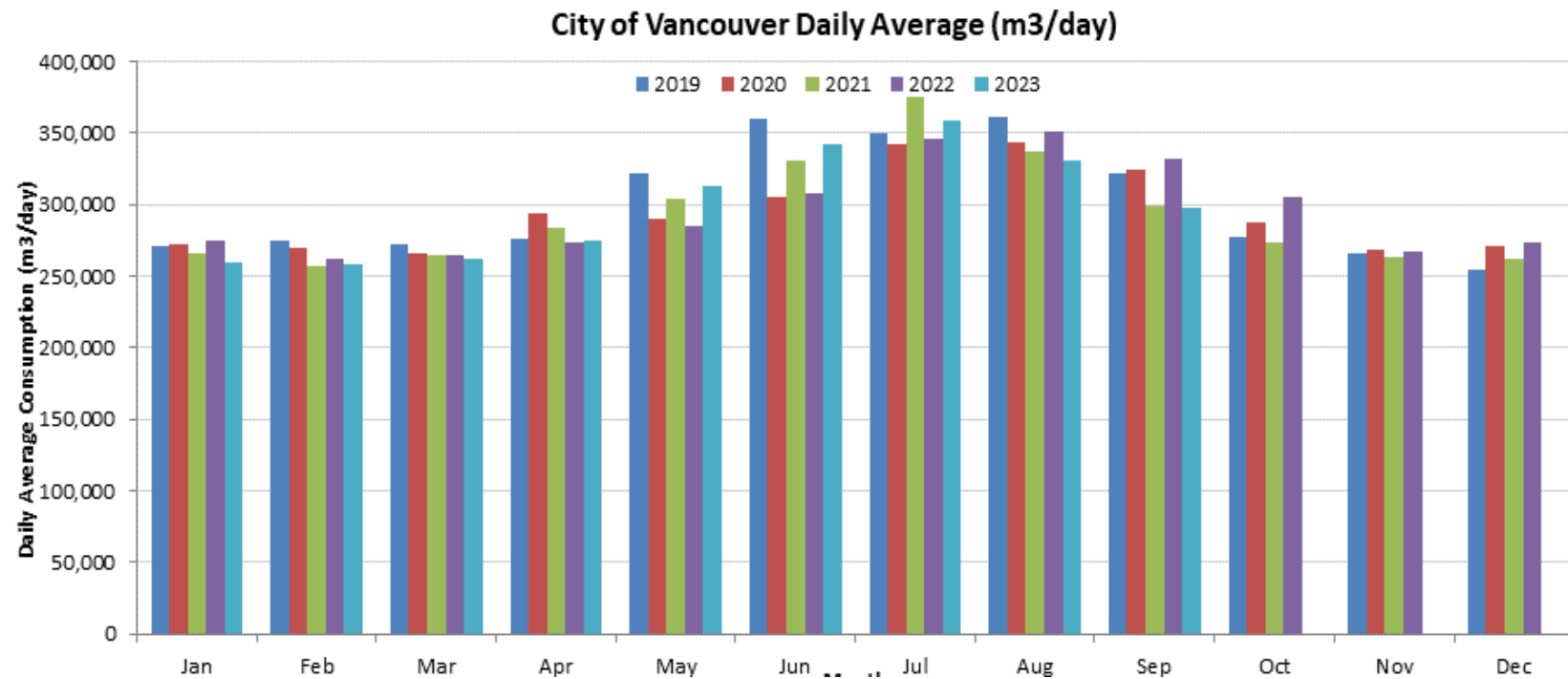
We will visit your home to help ensure that:

- The system timings comply with watering restrictions
- The timings are not excessive
- There are no leaks, damaged or misaligned sprinkler heads that might result in a ticket
- That your system is operating efficiently

Call 604-358-8596 or email water@vancouver.ca for details.

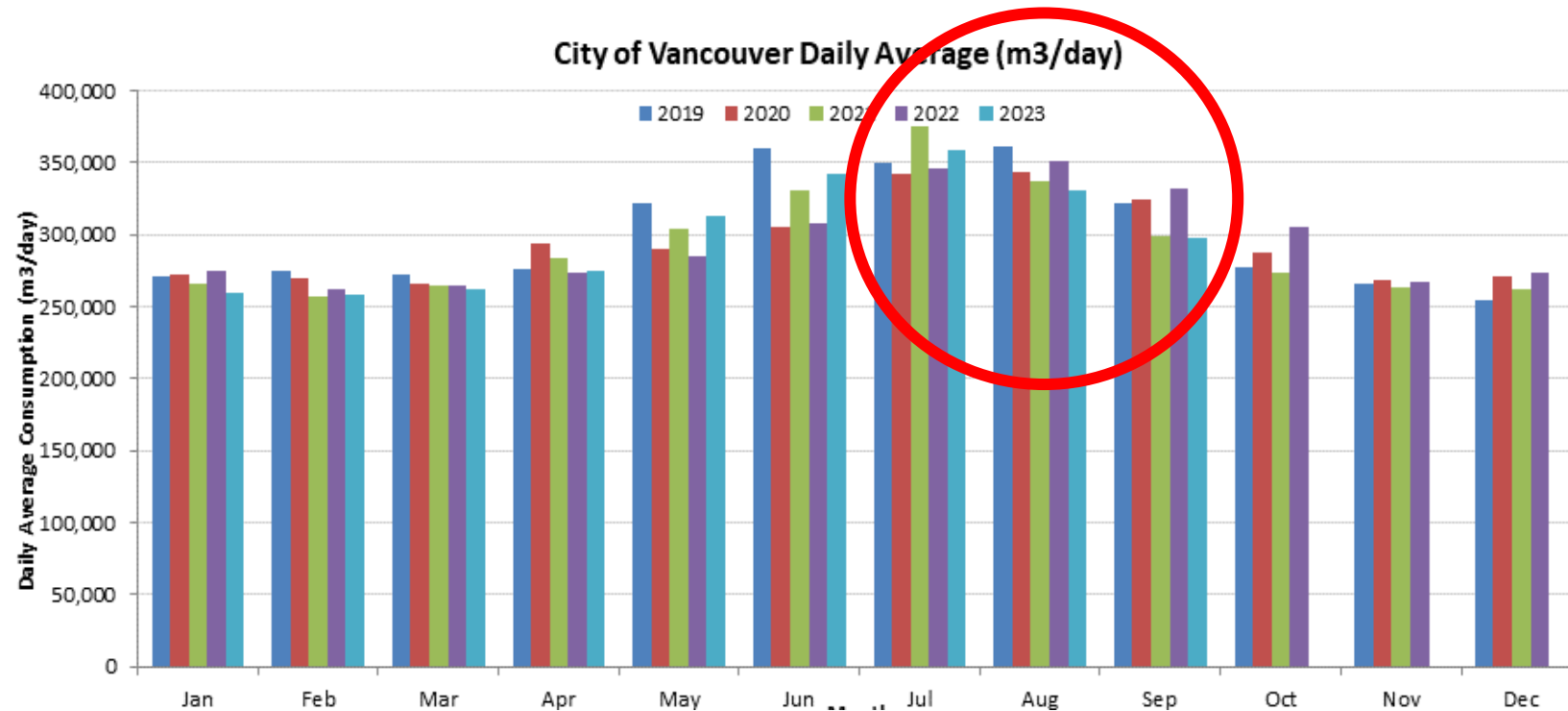


So, What Happened?



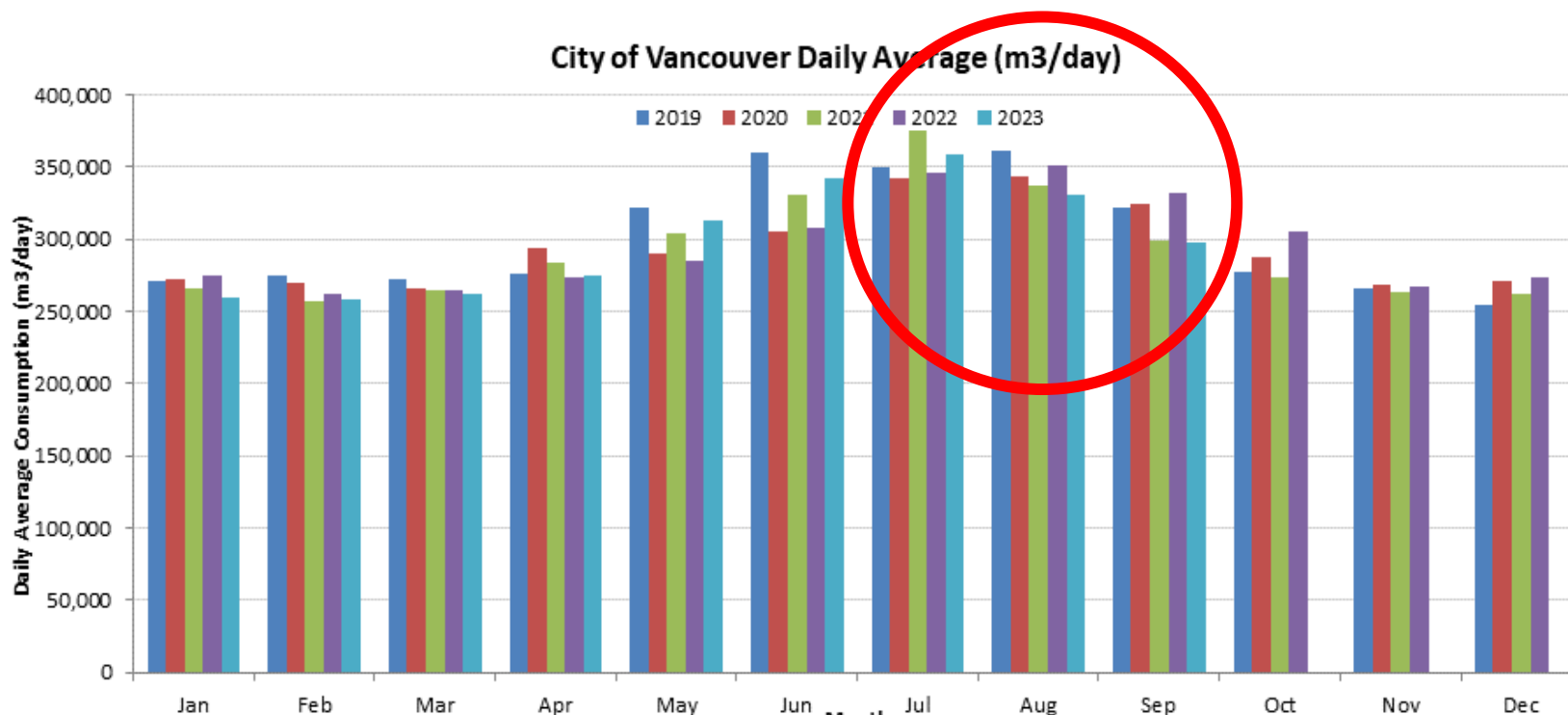
So, What Happened?

- July consumption slightly above average
- August and September consumption slightly below average



So, What Happened?

- July consumption slightly above average
- August and September consumption slightly below average
- Consumption across Metro region **up by 20%**
- Fewer tickets in Vancouver during Stage 2, increased tickets across Metro



Interesting Discovery: The Level of Non-Compliance – Metro Vancouver

- Metro’s peak day was Wednesday, a non-watering day
- Consumption on Wednesdays and Mondays (non watering days) was higher than Saturday (a watering day)

2023: May 1 to October 15 Peak Day of Week Stats (to October 1)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Stage 1	2	0	4	0	0	3	5
Stage 2	3	0	2	0	1	1	3
Totals	5	0	6	0	1	4	8
% Total	21%	0%	25%	0%	4%	17%	33%

Interesting Discovery: The Level of Non-Compliance – City of Vancouver

- Greatest number of tickets for watering on the wrong day were issued on Thursdays and Fridays, which were never allowable watering days
- Higher number of tickets on these days attributed to Enforcement shift overlap

Total Tickets 2023: Number of Tickets Per Day of the Week

<i>Offence</i>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total
<i>Wrong Day</i>	10	40	29	69	92	71	24	335
<i>Wrong Time</i>	56	7	2	2	11	8	27	113
<i>Water Waste</i>	5	6	8	14	13	17	9	72
								520

2023 Enforcement at a Glance

- 512 Fines
- 805 Warnings
- Dispute Process: Arbitration
- The lengths to which people will go to avoid a fine





Questions?

