

USE OF METAL DETECTORS IN STATE PARKS

Philosophy:

Use of metal detectors is an interesting and enjoyable recreational pastime for many people. It can be a real benefit to the park. Finding and removing metal objects from beaches, parking areas, and campsites helps prevent injury to park visitors and damage to vehicles and equipment.

The downside is that many of the parks are located in areas of historic and archeological significance. Although the lure of finding historic artifacts is what attracts some metal detector enthusiasts, removing historic artifacts from state lands is against the law and cannot be permitted. Also, the accompanying digging can disturb turf areas and sometimes rare, or fragile, plant or animal communities.

Policy:

Therefore, metal detecting in state parks is permitted **only** in areas previously disturbed by park development including constructed beaches, roads, parking lots, and campsites. Any other area, must first, be approved by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation in consultation with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

Procedure for Implementation:

Users must report to authorized personnel before using a metal detector. All disturbed areas shall be restored to their original state. Any artifacts of historical or archeological significance are the property of the state and must be surrendered immediately to authorized personnel along with any information as to the location of the finding.

Conrad M. Motyka, Commissioner

Revised October 11, 2000

Effective Date: June 11, 1997