

Saint Louis  
**COUNTY**  

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**PARKS**  

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**METAL DETECTORS  
DEPARTMENT POLICY**

**PURPOSE:**

To regulate use of recreational metal detectors in St Louis County Parks to allow enjoyment or metal detecting as a hobby while protecting and preserving our resources.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation to permit the use of recreational metal detectors in County Parks so long as the activity results in no damage or loss to plants, animals, historical.

Archaeological and cultural sites, geological or ecological features and highly maintained lawns or ballfields.

**PROCEDURE:**

**General Rules**

- I. It is unlawful to deface, injure, destroy, remove or use without authority any public facility or public property including all wildlife, plants, animals and archaeological, historic or geological objects found within a County park.
2. The use of metal detectors is strictly prohibited in historic, cultural or ecologically sensitive areas and in highly managed lawn areas in County Parks. Historic or cultural areas are Antire Valley, Belleview, Bella Fontaine, Bissell House, Bishop Long, Faust Park, Fort Belle Fontaine, Jefferson Barracks, Laumeier Sculpture Park, Packwood, Sioux Passage, Sylvan Springs and West Tyson and highly manicured lawn areas are Bee Tree Mansion, Ebsworth Park, Jarville House and gardens, and any Community Center or Recreation Complex plaza.
3. Users may probe with a screwdriver, ice pick or similar device so long as the shaft is no larger than 4" diameter and the user does not damage plants or geological features. Any further disturbance of topsoil or digging is not permitted.

4. Any collecting may be done for personal use only and not for commercial purposes.
5. Individual Park Supervisors have the right to restrict or limit metal detecting within a park under their authority.
6. Any items found must be reviewed by park staff or rangers and may be retained by County Parks for further investigation except for modern jewelry or modern coins.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. Plants: leaf mold, grass, and turf.
2. Geological features: earth, sand, gravel, and rocks.
3. Archaeological features: any item of archaeological or historical interest or value.
4. Modern: Any item which is less than fifty (50) years old.

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