

Metal Detecting

Enjoy metal detecting at selected Washington state parks.



Metal Detector's Code of Ethics

- I WILL always check federal, state, county and local laws before searching.
- I WILL respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.
- I WILL fill all holes and excavations.
- I WILL appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources, wildlife and private property.
- I WILL use thoughtfulness, consideration and courtesy at all times.
- I WILL leave gates as found.
- I WILL remove and properly dispose of any trash that I find.
- I WILL NOT litter.
- I WILL NOT destroy property, buildings or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I WILL NOT tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.

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If you would like to support Washington State Parks even more, please consider making a donation when renewing your license plate tabs. You also may place a check in a donation box when you visit state parks.

Donations are a significant part of the State Parks budget and are needed to keep your parks open and operating. Thank you, and enjoy. For more info, visit www.parks.state.wa.us/donations



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

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All Washington state parks are developed and maintained for the enjoyment of all people.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please call (360) 902-8844 or the Washington Telecommunications Relay Service at (800) 833-6388. **P&R 45-67001-01 (01/17)**



EMBRACE YOUR NATURE

www.parks.state.wa.us

REGISTRATION for Metal Detector Use

► Before detecting, please complete registration form and deliver to park staff. If park staff is not available, please deposit in pay station.

Name

Telephone number

Address (City, State, zip Code)

Park where detecting

Date of detecting

Number of people in party

► I, and members of my party, have read and understand the summary of rules for use of metal detectors in state parks.

Signature

Date

For the most current list of parks that allow metal detecting, visit online at www.parks.state.wa.us/metaldetecting



WELCOME TO WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

Please follow the established rules while detecting in Washington state parks. This will ensure that parks remain open to hobbyists and facilities and resources are protected. Contact park staff for additional information.

Metal Detecting Rules

- Metal detecting is permitted only within specified portions of approved state parks that permit metal detecting will have maps and registration information posted at the park; if no information is posted, the park does not permit this activity.
- Any find that appears to have historical or archaeological significance may not be removed from where it was found. Report all findings immediately to a park employee and do not further disturb the area.
- Properly dispose of all found or recovered litter.
- Group-detecting events require a special recreation event application.
- Metal detecting in camping areas open to metal detecting is permitted only in unoccupied campsites.
- Users shall not destroy park facilities, natural features or historical or archaeological resources. No item appearing to be of historical or archaeological significance, remaining from either early pioneer or military activity or from Native American presence, may be removed from where it was found. You must report immediately any such find to a park employee, and you must not further disturb the area in which the find occurred.
- Metal detecting is allowed between the ocean water's edge and the mean high tide line along the Washington coast.



Lost and Found Property

Please be aware that a "loser" of an item may still own that item and that the act of finding and recovering an item does not convey ownership rights to the finder. The Lost and Found Property Statute establishes provisions for recovery and retention of lost items.

- Coins in circulation are not subject to this statute.
- You must turn in found property to park staff and complete a Found Property Report, which tracks the disposition of the materials. Failure of the finder to comply with requirements of the law will result in the materials being disposed of as unclaimed property.
- If the owner is not found within specified time limits, the found property will be released to the finder, provided that all official proceedings which involve the property are completed and the finder has complied with all requirements.
- Contact park staff for further information about the Lost and Found property statute.

Washington Administrative Code 352-32-235 governs the use of metal detectors and is stated below:

"The use and operation of metal detectors, as well as the removal of small contemporary materials, is permitted within selected state parks as designated by the director or designee, in accordance with all commission direction on land management, and subject to the conditions and limitations specified.

(1) The use of metal detectors is permitted only within specified portions of approved state parks as posted for public reference. Metal detecting may be allowed in an approved campsite occupied by the registered metal detector user and in unoccupied campsites within approved campgrounds.

(2) The use of metal detectors within a state park shall be limited to daylight hours that the park has posted as "open." No use shall be allowed during periods of seasonal or emergency park closure, except where otherwise posted.

(3) Any person wishing to use a metal detector shall so indicate to park personnel at the park where the use is to occur, by complying with the registration process provided for such purpose.

(4) Exceptional uses of metal detectors in state parks may be allowed through the issuance of a special recreation event application, available from the agency.

(5) This section does not apply to commission employees while engaged in the performance of their duties.

(6) Persons operating metal detectors in state parks and state park areas shall:

(a) Observe all laws and regulations.

(b) Never destroy or disturb park facilities, natural features, or historical or archeological resources. No item which is, or appears to be of historical or archaeological significance, may be removed from the site at which it was found. Any such find shall be immediately reported to park personnel, and the area in which the find occurred shall be closed.

(c) Limit digging implements to ice picks, screwdrivers and probes not to exceed two inches in width and sand scoops not to exceed six inches in width and eight inches in length, containing perforations no less than one-half inch in width, to be used only on sand surfaces. Any holes dug shall be limited to six inches maximum depth and shall be immediately refilled and the surface restored to its earlier condition.

(d) Properly dispose of all found or recovered trash and litter.

(e) Conduct themselves with thoughtfulness, courtesy and consideration for others, and not interfere with other recreational activities. An operator shall not allow any emitted metal detector sound audible to other park users.

(7) Any violation of this section is an infraction under chapter 7.84 RCW.

