



County of Santa Clara
Parks and Recreation Department
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Metal Detecting Permit Guidelines

In addition to the General Guidelines below, please note that any Santa Clara County Park or any area within any Santa Clara County Park can be restricted at any time.

General Guidelines:

- Metal detecting permits are good for one (1) year from date of purchase.
- You must have your permit with you at all times when metal detecting.
- No shovels or picks are allowed.
- No excavations (digging) of any kind
- Please leave the area as you found it

Metal Detecting is **not permitted** in following park areas: **Use of metal detectors is prohibited**

Almaden Quicksilver County Park
- **All areas within the park**

Anderson County Park
- Cochrane/Jackson House

Calero County Park
- Bailey/Fellows House
- Park Office Area and Parking Lot

Chitactac Adams Heritage County Park
- **All areas with the park**

Coyote Creek Parkway
- **All areas within the park**

Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch
- **All areas within the park**

Ed Levin County Park
- Laguna Cemetery

Grant County Park
- **All Areas within the park**

Martial Cottle County Park
- **All areas within the park**

Mt. Madonna County Park
- Miller House Ruins
- Inspiration Point
- Grass Land around the Meadow Trail

Sanborn County Park
- H.P. Dyer House
- Welch Hurst Site (Youth Hostel)
- Pick Lab/Residence
- All Land East of Sanborn Road
- Pourroy Homestead
- Aubrey Creek

Santa Teresa County Park
- **All areas within the park**

Villa Montalvo Arboretum
- **All areas within the park**

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Additional Terms and Conditions:

1. Staff may close any area to this activity for purposes of maintaining visitor safety and/or preserving significant artefactual remains.
2. No person shall collect, excavate, injure, destroy or appropriate prehistoric or historic artifacts or human skeletal remains from lands under the jurisdiction of the Division except with written permission from the Director.
3. Metal detecting must only take place during normal park hours in park areas open to the public.
4. Metal detecting must not take place in locations that will encourage erosion or trail damage, or further than 50 feet from the edge of a designated trail.
5. Permittee is required to comply with all standard park rules as posted including areas not open to the public and standard terms and conditions posted on our website Parkhere.org as well as all County ordinances and all City, County and State laws and regulations.
6. Not all sites allow metal detecting to protect significant cultural or natural resources.
7. Use of metal detectors at historic sites is prohibited including use of electronic devices for “treasure hunting” is prohibited.
8. Metal detecting is recognized as a legitimate recreation activity when it is conducted in ways that do not damage the natural and cultural resources in Santa Clara County Parks nor violate applicable state statues. Any items found must be reviewed by park staff and may be retained for further investigation.
9. Operators of a metal detector shall wear or carry a litter apron or bag, and all litter found is to be deposited in an approved trash receptacle.
10. Operators may keep any non-identifiable items with a nominal value of less than \$25.00. Identifiable items, such as rings, watches, etc., and all other items of value that may exceed \$25.00 are to be deposited with a park staff such as a kiosk attendant or park ranger. These provisions apply to all lost and found articles including those found without the aid of a metal detector.
11. Operators must be aware and comply with county ordinance Article 5. Geological; Archeological Section B14-25.1. – Excavations.
 - a. No person shall dig or remove any dirt; stone; rock; archeological, historical, cultural or paleontological artifacts or other substance; or make any excavation or quarry any stone within any Park Area, except by Valid Permit issued by the Director and in accordance with applicable laws.
 - b. No person shall cause, assist in, or set off any explosive or expansive materials within any Park Area for the purpose of excavation or for other reasons, except by Valid Permit issued by the Director.
 - c. A person who violates or fails to comply with subsection (b) of this Section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
12. All historical, archeological or paleontological items found are to be left undisturbed and their location reported to a park staff such as a kiosk attendant or park ranger.
13. Geological Features
 - a. No person shall destroy, disturb, mutilate, or remove earth, sand, gravel, oil, minerals, rocks, paleontological features, or features of caves.
 - b. Rockhounding is not permitted at any Santa Clara County Park.
14. Archaeological Features.
 - a. No person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of archaeological, or historical interest or value.
 - b. The act of passing a metal detector over the ground in a Santa Clara County Park is not against the law. The prying up or digging out of an object however may be, as this may not be done if it disturbs the animals, plants, geological or archaeological features.