



Staff may close any area to this activity for purposes of maintaining visitor safety and/or preserving significant artefactual remains.

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.

Use of electronic devices for “treasure hunting” is prohibited.

Not all sites allow metal detecting to protect significant cultural or natural resources.

Use of metal detectors at historic sites is prohibited

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 statutes. Any items found must be reviewed by park staff and may be retained for further investigation.

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.

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 exceeding \$25.00 are to be deposited with the park superintendent. These provisions apply to all lost and found articles including those found without the aid of a metal detector.

001.14C5 All historical, archeological or paleontological items found are to be left undisturbed and their location reported to the park superintendent.

§ 4307. 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 may be permitted as defined in Section 4301(v).

§ 4308. Archaeological Features.

No person shall remove, injure, disfigure, deface, or destroy any object of archaeological, or historical interest or value.

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. Section 4309 gives the Department the authority to grant permits to disturb resources if it is in the best interest of the Department to do so.

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 removed from

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 of any kind
- No “digging” in turf areas
- Generally the use of a small trowel or a 3-4 pronged hand rake (like a small gardening claw) is acceptable in non-turf areas
- 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

Chitactac Adams Heritage County Park

- All areas with the park

Coyote Creek Parkway

- Coyote/Fisher Ranch House
- Malaguerra Winery

Coyote Bear Ranch

- Foreman’s House

Ed Levin County Park

- Laguna Cemetery

- Pourroy Homestead

Santa Teresa County Park

- all areas within park

Villa Montalvo Arboretum

- all areas within the park

Martial Cottle County Park

- all areas within the park

Grant County Park

- Joseph D. Grant Ranch House

Mt. Madonna County Park

- Miller House Ruins

Sanborn Skyline County Park

- H.P. Dyer House
- Welch Hurst Site (Youth Hostel)