

Metal Detecting Equipment Operation Permit Policy

Adopted: March 12, 2021

Pursuant to Fairfield County Park District's Rules & Regulations (effective January 1, 2019) no metal detecting equipment may be operated in any Fairfield County Park District (FCPD) property without a permit. The Director of FCPD is hereby authorized to issue permits for the operation of metal detectors in FCPD property in accordance with this policy. The Director shall issue no more than one permit per property for any specific timeframe. The Director shall issue permits on a first-come, first-served basis, except that the operation of metal detecting equipment by law enforcement for emergency situations shall always take precedent over any other permit issued by the Director.

1. **Definitions**

As used in this policy, the term "metal detecting equipment" means any type of instrument or sensor that detects the presence of metals.

As used in this policy, term "FCPD property" means any real property owned, leased, or operated by Fairfield County Park District and the immediate reaches of the airspace above said real property, consisting of at least as much of the space above the ground as can be used in connection with the real property (for purposes including, but not limited to, conservation and public enjoyment of the property).

2. **Use by Law Enforcement**

All local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies shall be considered to have a standing permit to operate metal detecting equipment in all FCPD properties when the operation of the equipment is for a legitimate law enforcement purpose. When possible, law enforcement agencies should notify the Director in advance of their planned operation of metal detecting equipment in FCPD properties.

3. **Use by Political Subdivisions of the State of Ohio**

All political subdivisions of the State of Ohio and the United States Government may apply to the Director for a permit to operate metal detecting equipment in all FCPD properties for legitimate government purposes. The Director may issue such a permit without requiring said subdivisions to comply with other provisions of this policy.

4. **Contractors Operating on Behalf of Fairfield County Park District**

The Director may issue a permit to operate metal detecting equipment in any park to a contractor operating said equipment on behalf of FCPD without requiring the contractor to comply with other provisions of this policy.

5. **Commercial/Recreational Use**

The Director may issue a permit to operate metal detecting equipment for commercial or recreational use in certain FCPD properties provided the following conditions are met by the permit applicant:

- (a) The commercial or recreational use of metal detecting equipment shall be permitted only for scientific purposes, educational purposes, or other purposes of public or great general interest. Such purposes include, but are not limited to, activities that serve to protect and conserve the



natural and historical features of Fairfield County and inspire outdoor exploration. The determination of whether the proposed use of metal detecting equipment serves a scientific purpose, educational purpose, or other purpose of public or great general interest shall be left to the sound discretion of the Director. If a permit application is denied, an applicant may request review of the decision at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. If the Board determines that the proposed use of metal detecting equipment does serve a scientific purpose, educational purpose, or other purpose of public or great general interest, it may authorize the issuance of the permit provided that all other requirements of this policy have been met.

- (b) Items of historical significance must be turned over to FCPD. Personal effects including but not limited to wedding rings, class rings, jewelry or other items that might be identified must be turned over to FCPD so the owners may be identified and the items returned, if at all possible. Unclaimed items that are not of historical significance may be returned to the finder.
- (c) Applicants shall pay a fee of \$25 before a permit for the operation of metal detecting equipment is issued (said fee shall not be required if the application for a permit is denied). In addition to said fee, Applicants shall be required to pay any additional costs deemed necessary by FCPD associated with the proposed use, including, but not limited to, the cost of Sheriff Deputies in the event a road or park area must be closed; additional park staff for crowd control; and/or the temporary movement of utility lines or other park infrastructure.
- (d) Permits for the commercial or recreational operation of metal detecting equipment shall not be issued for Stebelton Park at Rock Mill, Wahkeena Nature Preserve, or Wagner Preserve (heron rookery) and/or other location used specifically for conservation/preservation of wildlife (flora or fauna).
- (e) Applicants shall provide a valid, government-issued photo IDs with their applications.
- (f) All applications shall be made on the form attached to this policy and shall not be considered by the Director until complete.

6. Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy shall result in the revocation of any permit issued under this policy and may be considered a violation of FCPD's Rules & Regulations and/or Ohio Revised Code Section 1545.99. FCPD reserves the right to refuse to issue subsequent permits to any applicant who has previously been found to be in violation of this policy.

