METAL DETECTORS GUIDELINES

1. Use of metal detectors is limited to developed parks that do not contain any designated archeological sites or are not designated Natural Areas. Certain parks, in their entirety, are off limits. This list may be amended at any time by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

2. A Permit Request Form must be submitted and signed, acknowledging receipt and understanding of Metal Detectors policies.

3. A permit will be issued by the Director's Office of the Parks and Recreation Department. Permits are limited to six months in duration and will specify location(s) to be visited. A maximum of twenty parks may be listed on one permit.

4. Use is prohibited in the following locations:
   - ball fields, including open playfield areas utilized for practice
   - fenced locations that normally require a park permit for access

5. A metal detector permit does not reserve a park area. Activities may not occur in areas where someone holds a park reservation permit or during special events in the park.

6. Tools for digging are limited to :
   - Probes not over 12 inches long, 2 ½" inches wide and one quarter inch thick
   - A sand scoop or sieve not over 10 inches in diameter

7. When digging down to locate an item, the excavation shall be less than three inches square and <u>the disturbed area is to be restored to its original condition</u>.

8. A litter apron or bag is to be worn or carried during metal detector use and all litter disposed of in trash containers or removed from site.

9. If an archeological artifact is found, the metal detecting activity shall cease and the permit holder shall promptly notify the Parks and Recreation Department, which shall follow notification procedures to the State of Texas as required by the Texas Natural Resources Code, administered by the Texas Historical Commission. The State of Texas shall retain ownership of the artifact. Questions about whether objects are significant may be referred to the Texas Historical Commission Regional Archeologist.

10. The Director of Parks and Recreation may approve use of a metal detector in areas where their use is normally prohibited, only upon special arrangement, in cases when a specific item is lost or to assist with official investigations.

11. All other park policies must be followed.

12. A copy of the permit must be in possession of permit holder when using metal detector and permit holder must have photo identification. Park Police Officers may review permit and check on activity. If actions are questionable, as per the officer, metal detecting should cease immediately until situation is clarified.

13. Failure to follow established procedures will cause permit to be revoked and may cause civil action if warranted.

<u>Metal Detectors Code of Ethics</u>

(1) Respect the rights and properties of others.
(2) Observe all laws whether national, state or local.
(3) Aid law enforcement officials whenever possible.
(4) Never destroy priceless historical or archaeological treasures.
(5) Leave land and vegetation as it was. Fill all holes.
(6) Remove all trash and litter when you leave.
(7) All treasure hunters may be judged by the example you set.
(8) Always conduct yourself with courtesy and consideration for others.

For more information about metal detecting in the San Antonio area, you may contact the San Antonio Area Metal Detectors Club at (210) 336-6503.