

Metal Detecting Banned In One High Point, NC City Park

I have enjoyed metal detecting in many of High Point's Parks for years with no problems. The reason I have never had any problems or been asked to leave is I have always been respectful of all property and persons while being a "visitor" in the parks and any parks I visited. Recently, while metal detecting at one favorite park, I was asked to leave by the Park Manager. "Have I done something wrong?" I asked. "No", was the reply. "It was someone else who did the wrong and metal detecting now ends for everybody at this park".

The Park Manager went on to explain that a man and his son came to the park a few months back for metal detecting and was spotted digging large holes and not filling in the holes he dug. He had also been cutting down small trees to 'dig my treasure up' as he put it. When asked by the park staff to be more respectful and fill in the holes, the man became rude and started to use abusive language to the park staff. He was then told to leave the park and not come back. His reply was he would come back to metal detect when no staff was there. He was then told if he returned he would face a 'trespassing' charge.

Now because of the inconsiderate behavior of this one person, no one can go to this particular park to metal detect ever again! Not only did he spoil it for the rest of us, he completely 'soured' the park staff toward metal detecting, period!

I tried to explain to the Park Manager this was an isolated incident and most people who enjoy the hobby of metal detecting are not like this individual. I even went into detail to explain about our club and ethics policy and that our members are very respectful wherever we go, be it a club function or an individual out metal detecting on private property. The manager said "I am sorry, but If I let you metal detect, I have to allow all others and I don't want our park to look like a park full of open pits ever again".

I hope the person who spoiled metal detecting at this park does not go to other parks to do his bad deeds, or High Point just may shut down all metal detecting in all the parks including our annual club hunt at Oak Hollow Park.

A Reminder To All ONSD Members:

Please be respectful to all property, public and private, and fill any holes you dig even in the most remote forest areas.

Please be respectful to all persons you come in contact with as you never know who you just may be talking to.

If you are ever asked to leave a park or other property, be respectful and leave on good terms.

Jim Spivey