

CHAPTER 64
METAL DETECTOR USE IN STATE AREAS

[Prior to 12/31/86, Conservation Commission[290] Ch 43]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/18/30

571—64.1(461A) Definitions.

“*Beach*” or “*beach area*” means that portion of state parks or recreation areas designated for swimming activity including the sand, a 200-foot buffer of land surrounding the sand or a designated area that is fenced in, and the water area contiguous to the beach as marked by swim buoys or swim lines.

“*Metal detector*” means a portable electronic device carried by an individual used only for detecting metal above or below the surface of the ground.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.2(461A) Use areas. Metal detector use in state parks and recreation areas is prohibited except in the following areas:

64.2(1) Designated beach areas. From May 22 to September 7 each year, metal detectors may be used on designated beach areas from 4 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day. From September 8 to May 21 each year, metal detectors may be used on designated beach areas during the hours established in 571—subrule 61.10(10).

64.2(2) Drained lakes. When an artificial lake has been drained or the water level lowered for any reason, metal detector use may be allowed during the hours established in 571—subrule 61.10(10) only after the lake bed has been thoroughly surveyed for archaeological resources and a survey report has been completed and approved by the state historic preservation office.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.3(461A) Archaeological/scientific studies. When the use of a metal detector may support an archaeological or scientific study, a sovereign lands construction permit may be issued. Review of all sovereign lands construction permit applications shall be coordinated with the state historic preservation office.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.4(461A) Found items. All items found are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 556F.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.5(461A) Lost item search by owner. An owner of lost property may use a metal detector to search for that item in an area where such use is prohibited under the following conditions:

64.5(1) Written approval has been granted by the director of the department of natural resources or designee.

64.5(2) The search is confined to a reasonable area within the park or recreation area.

64.5(3) The search is limited to 12 hours or less in length.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.6(461A) Tools used. Tools used to recover items detected beneath the ground level shall be limited to the following:

64.6(1) Probes not over 12 inches long, 1-inch wide, and ¼-inch thick.

64.6(2) A sand scoop or sieve not over ten inches in diameter.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.7(461A) Digging limitations and restoration.

64.7(1) In recovering items located below the ground, a person shall not unduly disturb the earth and shall limit all excavations to less than three inches square when using probes and ten inches in diameter when using sand scoops or sieves.

64.7(2) When digging is done to search for an object, the metal detector operator shall restore the disturbed area as nearly as possible to its original condition.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

571—64.8(461A) Disposal of litter. All litter that is recovered shall be disposed of in approved trash receptacles.

[ARC 9232C, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 461A.35.

[Filed 7/13/82, Notice 4/28/82—published 8/4/82, effective 9/8/82]

[Filed without Notice 12/12/86—published 12/31/86, effective 2/4/87]

[Filed 11/17/04, Notice 9/29/04—published 12/8/04, effective 1/12/05]

[Filed ARC 9232C (Notice ARC 8586C, IAB 1/8/25), IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]