

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MARYLAND PARK SERVICE**

**AGENCY POLICY 19-17
Amended 15 November 2019**

**MANAGEMENT OF THE MPS ARTIFACT COLLECTION,
RELIC COLLECTING, TREASURE HUNTING,
AND USE OF METAL DETECTORS**

I. General

It is the policy of the Maryland Park Service to safeguard the historical and archeological resources under its care.

II. Management and Care of the Maryland Park Service Permanent Artifact Collection

A. Purpose

The Maryland Park Service is entrusted to maintain and preserve those objects which illustrate the history and prehistory of the State of Maryland, for the use and benefit of its citizens. The Maryland Park Service maintains these objects in its Permanent Artifact Collection.

B. Scope

The Maryland Park Service's Permanent Artifact Collection consists of objects that contribute to the Maryland Park Service's capacity to preserve and interpret the history of the Maryland Park Service, and the history, pre-history, geography and environment of individual facilities or land units managed by the Maryland Park Service.

C. Procedures

1. The Superintendent has authorized the development of the Maryland Park Service's *Artifact Collections Management Standards* for the care, management, display and storage of objects in the agency's Permanent Collection.

2. The Park Manager shall be responsible for implementing this policy and the *Artifact Collections Management Standards* in such a manner as to ensure proper accountability of the Maryland Park Service's Permanent Collection.

III. Relic Collecting, Treasure Hunting and Metal Detector Policy

A. Digging in search of buried relics or treasures, the removal of any prehistoric or historic artifacts, and the use of metal detectors (except as noted in D, below) within the boundaries of lands, beaches, or under waters controlled by the Maryland Park Service is strictly prohibited without a permit from the Office of Archeology, Maryland Historical Trust, Department of Planning.

B. Permits are only issued to archaeologists and other qualified persons who present a plan for scientific investigation, to be carried out under provisions of the Maryland Archaeological and Submerged Archaeological Historic Properties Acts, as amended.

C. Copies of the law and application for permit can be obtained from the Chief, Office of Archeology, Maryland Historical Trust.

D. The only exception to the aforementioned permit requirements shall be for the use of metal detectors in the search for modern coins, jewelry, etc. on all designated swimming beaches operated by the Maryland Park Service, with the exception of Point Lookout State Park and Calvert Cliffs State Park, and all adjacent waters controlled by the Service.

1. Permission to use these devices for this purpose must be obtained from the Park Manager.

2. These devices may be used during normal park hours except:

- a. From 9:00 a.m. through dusk from May 30 through Labor Day, and;

- b. At any other time, at the discretion of the Park Manager, when use of these devices would interrupt the recreational enjoyment of other park visitors.