

Metal Detecting Target Recovery Procedure

This procedure defines the appropriate method for recovering targets from the ground found with a metal detector. The end result should leave no obvious signs of damage to the grass/lawn once the target has been retrieved.

STEP 1: The metal detector produces an audible tone(s) indicating the presence of a metal target. The location of the target is pinpointed using the detector coil.



STEP 2: Using a small trowel, cut a semicircular slit in the ground approximately 4 – 6 inches in diameter directly over the target.



STEP 3: Using the trowel, lift the grass plug and hinge it backwards away from the slit. Note that the plug must be cut deep enough as to not damage the root structure of the grass.



STEP 4: Check the plug and the bottom of the hole for the target. If it is not found, remove minimal amounts of dirt from the hole until the target is located. Place the dirt in a pan or on a drop cloth.



STEP 5: Retrieve the target. Any trash found must be properly disposed of and not placed back in the ground.



STEP 6: Pour all loose dirt that was removed previously back into the hole.



STEP 7: Flip the hinged grass plug back into position, completely covering the hole.



STEP 8: Tamp the plug flush with the ground using your foot. Do not stomp or grind your foot against the grass to avoid damaging it.



STEP 9: The target area should show no obvious signs of recovery.

