

Oregon Treasure Trail Society 2024 Trash Report

Over the years O.T.T.S. members have continued to remove hundreds of pounds of trash from parks and schools during our club hunts. While removing trash helps make a park a more pleasant place to be, the other accomplishment is an improvement to park safety. Most people do not realize that detectorists hunting in parks or schools are removing dangerous items, making places safer to enjoy. Although most things we find are buried, some are just below the surface, hidden in grass, sand or wood chips.

This year the Oregon Treasure Trail Society had 12 Club Hunts. The hunts were in Portland City Parks, a Clark County Park (Washington), a Vancouver School, and a school in Orenco (Oregon). The number of club members participating in the 12 hunts ranged from 11-34 averaging 20 each. The hunts last 4 hours, meaning our club spent 960 hours clearing 186.5 pounds of trash from public parks and schools.

Locations	Trash
Portland City Parks	128 Lbs.
Clark County Parks (Washington)	12.5 Lbs.
Vancouver Schools	22 Lbs.
Orenco School	24 Lbs.
Total for year	186.5 Lbs.

Danger Items

In 2024 there were a large number of vape-pen and refill cartridges found, this seems to be an ongoing new issue. There is always broken glass found. We are happy when we can pick a bottle before it breaks. A member found an 8-inch kitchen knife in a schoolyard, in addition to a box cutter and spare blades found Bic cigarette lighters, some still working, were plentiful. Members have found drug paraphernalia which is why we always have a Biohazard container with us. Unfired bullets were found at several locations. In addition to individual items, nails, screws and shredded aluminum cans are always found and removed. These are just a sampling of type items that were found and removed this year.

During our club hunts the O.T.T.S. Club adheres strictly to a code of ethics designed to ensure that our hobby is both enjoyable and respectful to others. This code includes following;

O.T.T.S. Club Metal Detecting Code of Ethics

1. Follow all local, state, and federal laws related to metal detecting.
2. Respect private property and never metal detect an area without permission.
3. Pack out what you pack in and properly dispose of any trash you find.
4. Leave all gates, structures, and private property as they were before.
5. Fill in every hole you dig. Leave no trace you were there.
6. Never dig in a way that harms vegetation, wildlife, or changes natural features.
7. Report any significant historical artifacts to local authorities.

Be an ambassador for the hobby by always being courteous and thoughtful.

Club Hunt Example



As an example, during one of our club's hunt this year, we filled a 5-gallon bucket with 20 pounds of trash. This single bucket represents just a fraction of the total 186 pounds of trash we collected over the year, enough to fill 9 of these buckets. These activities not only keep our environment clean but also help remove dangerous items.



Thank you for your interest in our club,
For more information about our club check us out at: ottsclub.org