

**Ordinance No. 2526 Summary**

On January 20, 2022, the City of De Soto, Kansas, adopted Ordinance No. 2526, amending the De Soto City Code to establish regulations pertaining to treasure hunting, use of metal detectors in city parks. A complete copy of this ordinance may be obtained or viewed free of charge at the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 32905 West 84<sup>th</sup> Street, De Soto, Kansas or at [www.desotoks.us](http://www.desotoks.us) by clicking the links for “Government”, then “City Ordinances”, then “Recently Passed Ordinances”. This summary is certified by Patrick G. Reavey, De Soto City Attorney pursuant to K.S.A. 12-3001, et seq.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2526**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 1 OF CHAPTER XII OF THE CITY CODE TO ADDRESS METAL DETECTING AND TREASURE HUNTING WITHIN CITY PARKS**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF DE SOTO, KANSAS:

**SECTION 1.** That Section 12-115 of Article 1 of Chapter XII of the Code of the City of De Soto, Kansas is amended to read as follows:

**12-115. Preservation of natural state.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, except duly authorized city employees, to take, injure, or disturb any live or dead tree, plant, shrub, or flower, or otherwise interfere with the natural state of city parks.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, visitors may minimally disturb the ground or turf in city parks for the purpose of uncovering and retrieving items found as part of treasure hunting, use of a metal detector. The following rules shall apply:

- (1) No object of historical or archaeological value or interest may be removed from a park. If such an object is found, park staff must be notified immediately.
- (2) Treasure hunting and use of a metal detector is prohibited within landscaped plant beds and areas of the park used for athletic fields.
- (3) Use of hand implements (e.g. trowel) is the only method of digging allowed. Small probes and sieves are also acceptable.
- (4) Disturbing the natural state of the ground or turf is limited to 3 inches in depth and 3 inches in width. Any removed ground or turf material must be returned to the area disturbed to restore the area to its original condition. The “plug” of ground or turf removed should be preserved and then placed back into the disturbed area for minimum disruption and no noticeable impact to park property.
- (5) A litter apron or bag is to be worn or carried during metal detector use/treasure hunting and all litter must be disposed in trash containers or removed from the park.

**AGENDA ITEM 1d**

- (6) Plants and trees may not be dislodged or have their roots disturbed.
- (7) Metal detecting/treasure hunting is permitted daily from sunrise to sunset.

**SECTION 2.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption by the City Council, approval by the Mayor and publication in the City’s official newspaper, and all provisions of the Code inconsistent herewith are repealed.

ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF DE SOTO, KANSAS  
AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THE 20TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2022.

(seal)

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RICK WALKER, Mayor

ATTEST:

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BRANDON MILLS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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PATRICK G. REAVEY  
City Attorney