

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Ban on Releasing Plastic Confetti, Glitter & Balloons Outdoors Seeks to Protect Florida Wildlife

On June 2, 2022, the City Commission approved a new zero waste ordinance **banning the intentional release outdoors of plastic confetti, glitter, or balloons by any person or persons.** This ordinance aims to reduce plastic litter in our environment and protect aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. Please note that foil and mylar balloons are included under this ordinance as the base material in these balloon types is a plastic derivative. Individuals should start to consider biodegradable alternatives, such as paper confetti, when celebrating outdoors as enforcement of this ordinance goes into effect on September 2, 2022.

Plastic litter is an exponentially growing pollutant in our environment. Plastic glitter, confetti, balloon pieces, and other small-sized plastic litter can easily make their way into our ecosystem through storm drains, leading to rivers and oceans. These tiny plastic pieces are often mistaken for food by wildlife such as fish, turtles, amphibians, and birds. Once eaten by animals, this can result in significant harm or even death, as an accumulation of plastic can clog the intestines and prevent normal digestion.



For more information on this ordinance and other zero waste ordinances, please visit gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste.

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