

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

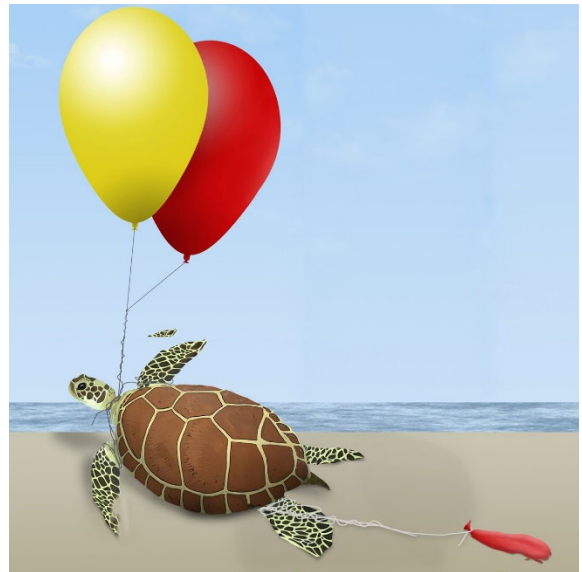
## Ban on Releasing Plastic Confetti, Glitter & Balloons Outdoors Seeks to Protect Florida Wildlife

To safeguard the diverse wildlife of Florida and address the growing threat of plastic pollution, the City of Gainesville has enacted regulations banning the deliberate outdoor release of plastic balloons, confetti, and glitter. **This ban also includes foil and mylar balloons**, which are derived from plastic materials.

Individuals are encouraged to responsibly rethink their celebrations by:

- **Avoiding having balloons outdoors;**
- **Opting for biodegradable alternatives, such as paper confetti instead of plastic.**

When released into the environment, **plastic balloons, glitter, and confetti fragments pose a grave danger to our precious ecosystems**. Plastic particles often find their way into rivers and oceans via storm drains, presenting a hazardous situation for wildlife. Fish, turtles, amphibians, and birds frequently mistake these fragments for food and inadvertently consume this harmful plastic. The accumulation of plastic in their digestive systems can lead to obstructions in their intestines, causing severe harm or even death.



For further information about this ordinance and other zero waste regulations, please visit [gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste](http://gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste).

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