

Proposal to Ban Balloons & Confetti in Stamford Parks

An Environmental Case for Protecting Stamford's Wildlife

City of Stamford Parks & Recreation Commission Public Hearing Regular Meeting: Educational Presentation
March 20, 2024

Melanie Hollas, Chair

Why are Balloons & Confetti Bad for the Environment?

- Animals often mistake the shiny fragments as food
- Shorebirds & other animals can become entangled in balloon remnants
- They break down into microplastics
- Dolphins, Whales, Sea Turtles etc. beach themselves and die every year after ingesting deflated balloons, which can resemble jellyfish
- 'Biodegradable' latex balloons take up to 2 years to breakdown
- Balloons can travel hundreds of miles away affecting wildlife far from their actual release location.

Current CT Balloon Law:

- Chapter 490 Sec. 26-25c: Ban to release 10 or more helium or other lighter-than-air-gas balloons in a 24-hour period



Confetti

Kosciuszko Park

September 5, 2023

Cities with Confetti Laws

- Mobile, AL
- Waterbury, CT
- Boca Raton, FL
- Bill Braggs Cape Florida State Park
- Hutto, TX
- CT State Park Picnic Shelters

Safe Alternatives:

- Bird Seed
- Dried Flowers
- Dried Leaves



Balloons



A Place Called Hope

March 15, 2022 · 🌐



Garbage entanglements are one of the most common conflicts our wildlife must face due to the negative impact of co-existing with mankind. Balloons, which include strings or ribbons attached, pose a serious threat to all wildlife whether it is due to the entanglement of the string/ribbon itself or the actual ingestion of the undigestible balloons. Balloons are often consumed whole or in pieces since they are easily mistaken for food by aquatic life and more. Balloons are garba...
[See more](#)



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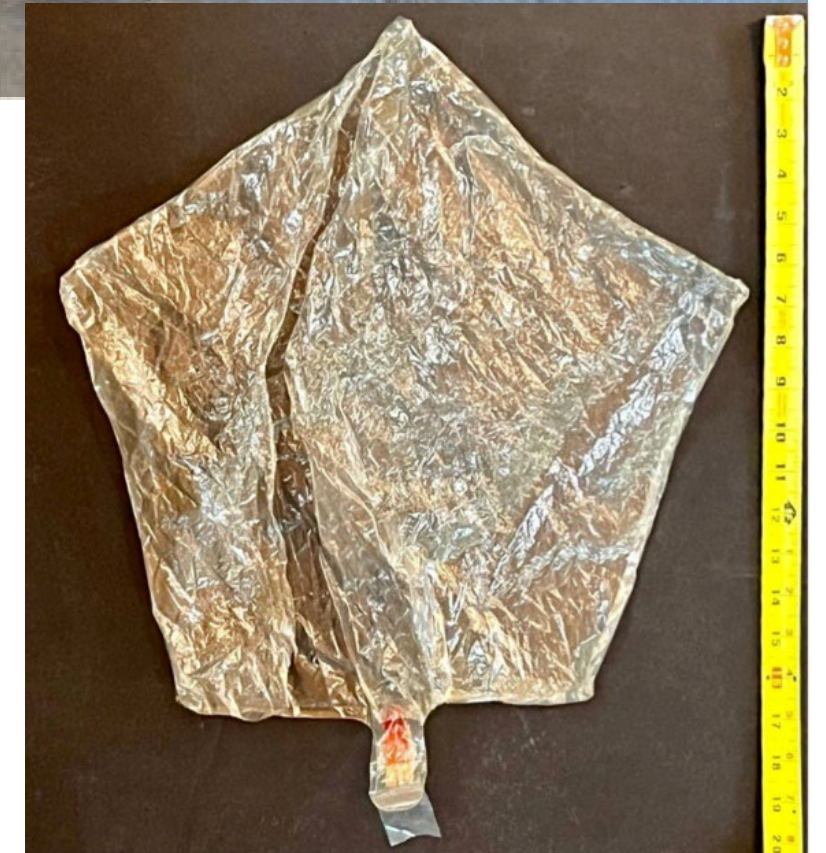
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Beaked whale calf found on NC beach, died from starvation due to a balloon (pictured below) obstructing digestive tract.



Photos: newsobserver.com 11-08-2023



Cove Island
Osprey Nest

Balloon Alternatives

- Paper Streamers
- Tissue Paper Pom-Poms
- Flags
- Pendants
- Kites
- Paper Lanterns
- Bubbles



Cities & States with Balloon Laws

- Huntsville, AL
- San Francisco, CA
- Boca Raton, FL
- Ocean City & Queen Anne's County, MD
- Chatham, Nantucket & Provincetown, MA
- Atlantic City, Bradley Beach, Brigantine, Cape May City, Egg Harbor, Long Beach Township, Longport, North Wildwood, Sea Isle City, Somers Point, Upper Township, & Ventnor, NJ
- East Hampton, NY
- Wrightsville Beach, NC
- Block Island, RI
- Galveston, TX
- Bainbridge Island, WA

- California
- Delaware
- Florida
- Hawaii
- Maine
- Maryland
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Virginia

Conclusion

Many of the most used Stamford public parks are located right on the Long Island Sound. Banning balloons and confetti in our parks will save wildlife in Stamford and wildlife potentially hundreds of miles away. It will decrease plastic and microplastic pollution in our parks and water. There are many alternatives to both balloons and confetti that if used will not harm or kill wildlife. Stamford could be a leader in Connecticut and join the other coastal cities in the U.S. that already banned balloons and/or confetti.



Photos from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Wildlife Center of Virginia
www.wildlifecenter.org

What Goes Up, Will Come Down!

When a balloon is released into the air, it doesn't float on for ever. Released balloons will return to Earth and become litter. These balloons -- even "biodegradable" ones -- remain in the environment for many years, and have devastating effects on wildlife. Don't let them go!

Balloon strings can end up in nests, which can entangle or strangle birds. Predatory birds can also ingest balloon fragments when they consume prey that has eaten balloons.

Fragments of balloons may seem like a tempting treat to wildlife. Ingested balloons can cause internal blockages, which ultimately lead to starvation.

Ingested balloon fragments also travel up the food chain and can end up in the stomachs of predators.

Wildlife can become entangled in balloon ribbons or strings, which inhibit their ability to move, find food, and escape predators.

There are many eco-friendly alternatives to celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one. Plant trees or flowers, light candles or luminaries, blow bubbles, or use plant-a-wish paper!

An infographic titled "What Goes Up, Will Come Down!" illustrating the environmental impact of balloons. It shows a purple balloon being released, then a bird's nest with a string, a turtle eating a balloon fragment, a duck eating a balloon fragment, and a fish eating a balloon fragment. Each step is accompanied by a text box explaining the harm. The background features a stylized landscape with trees and water.