

Cleaning up Seaside Park: A brief analysis on beach pollution along Long Island Sound

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HONR-390/CAPS-390 Senior Capstone — Island of Misfits

Introduction

Long Island Sound, a vital estuary located between Connecticut and Long Island, serves as an ecological and economic hub, supporting diverse marine life, recreational activities, and commercial industries. However, like many coastal regions, the Sound faces significant environmental challenges, with one of the most pressing issues being the growing problem of litter. From plastic debris and discarded fishing gear to food wrappers and cigarette butts, litter in the Sound poses threats to water quality, wildlife, and human health. The accumulation of waste not only harms marine species but also affects local economies that rely on tourism and fishing. While organizations like Save the Sound [1] work across Connecticut to provide resources and organize local cleanups to reduce overall pollution, more action is needed. This research poster examines the sources, types, and consequences of litter in Long Island Sound and explores potential solutions to mitigate this issue, protecting this invaluable resource for future generations.

Research Objectives

This research examines the volume of litter collected at Seaside Park on a single day to estimate annual waste generation and identify local sources. The study aims to determine the most common types of litter found in the park and gather survey data to develop strategies for reducing waste.

Methodology

- Surveyed the Fall 2024 Senior Capstone course on Beach Pollution
- Performed field research by going to Seaside Park and recording litter found along a section of the walkway.

Results

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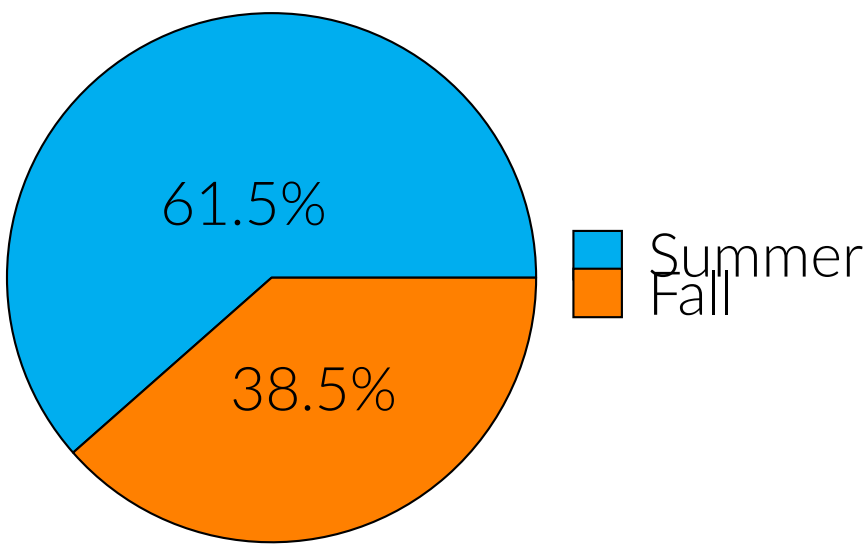


Figure 1. In what season do you usually visit any beach along the Long Island Sound?

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Item	Quantity
Paper & Plastic Pieces	87
Bottles/Cups/Cans	63
Glass	15
Takeout Containers	10
Bags	8
Large Items	4

Table 1. Litter picked up on 11/25/24.

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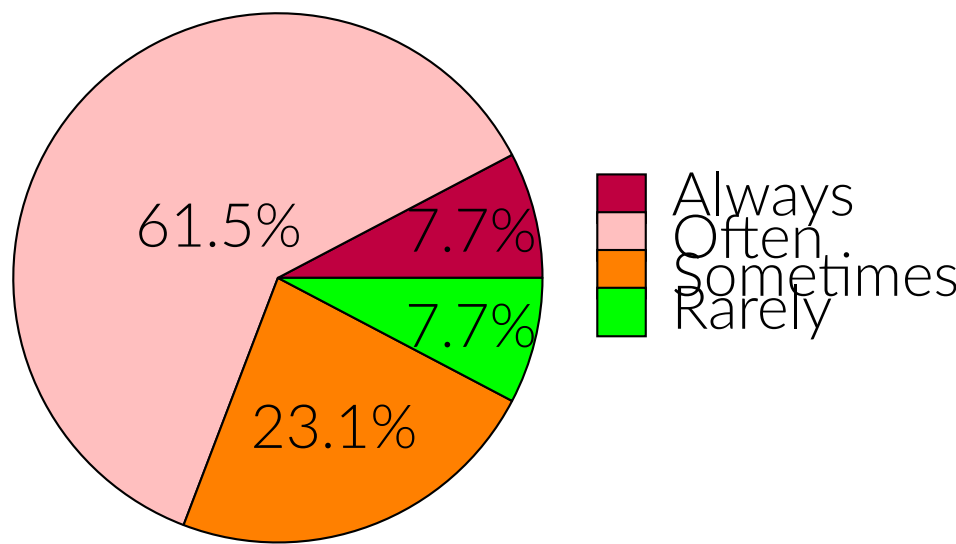


Figure 2. How often do you see trash at CT beaches?

Discussion

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Conclusion

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References

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