

# Report Park Litter 2020

A cura del circolo Legambiente Verona



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# Presentation

## The motivation

The importance of managing, safeguarding and increasing the public green heritage reflects the need to give cities an own identity while enhancing the life quality. Urban green is part of the wider context of "landscape values" protected by the Constitution of the Italian Republic (Article 9).

Any action, intervention or regulation that has as its object the green heritage in general must never overlook that:

- the 'green' should be understood as a place for the conservation of the city's characteristics and for the creation of identity in areas that lack them;
- the 'green' should be designed with equal dignity in any urban area;
- the "green" should be cared for as a reality that by its essence requires timely and constant maintenance, starting from the day after its creation.

## The definition of "Park Litter"

Following the initiative "Puliamo il mondo", the action "Park Litter" has been established. The aim of the event is twofold. The first purpose entails cleaning and disposing the trash from the surrounding parks of Italian cities, with the aim of clearing the earth from all litter. The second purpose is to analyse the collected trash. The initiative of Legambiente is supported by the regional and local associations and the contribution of 295 volunteers.

## The local context

In 2020 Verona lost three positions in the ranking of "Ecosistema Urbano" (the annual report, published by Legambiente in collaboration with Ambiente Italia and "Il Sole 24Ore", which assesses the eco-performance of provincial capitals), slipping down a list based on 18 parameters collected in five macro-areas (water, environment, air, mobility and waste), ranking 70th with 48.7% points, compared to a hypothetical score of 100 that would be due to a capital city able to comply with all legal limits and ensure good environmental quality for each of the indicators considered. Although the city loses three places in the rankings, the report highlights some positive data such as an increase in green space per capita and a rise in the percentage of recycling. These 31 square metres increase of green per capita (35th) are unfortunately not a satisfactory enough result given that the top twenty Italian municipalities hold values that are two or three times better.

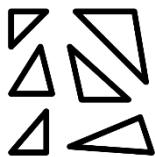
# Presentation

## The importance of the project

The problem of abandoned trash doesn't even spare the cities' parks, where Legambiente is keeping the monitoring activity of "Park Litter 2020", in coordination with 295 active volunteers on the whole national territory.



In the whole Italy about 27.854 pieces of trash were collected and counted in 73 monitored public parks, for a total amount of 7300 square meters.



The most collected type of trash are the cigarette ends, which represent 33% of the amount of collected trash (9.304 of 27.854), followed by corks/beer mats (2.240, 8% of the total amount) and undefined pieces of paper (2.004, 7%).



The undefined pieces of plastic represent 6% of the collected trash (1.580).



Divided in categories, the plastic garbage records 60%, while paper and carton 16% and metal 11%. The remaining percentage is due to rubber, glass, organic garbage, wood, fabrics, bioplastic and mixed materials.



In 64 out of 73 of the monitored parks there are separated trash bins for recycling. However, in 9 parks trash bins are missing completely.

The presence of road gullies and drains are recognised in 49 of 73 parks, which is one of the main reasons for the pollution of the seas.

At last, in 59% of the parks (43 of 73) the trash accumulates underneath pic-nic benches and tables, as well as on playgrounds.

# Presentation

## The participants

In the conviction that without educated and active individuals no change is possible, Legambiente has interpreted the environmental challenge as an educational challenge through virtuous practices of active citizenship and citizen science.

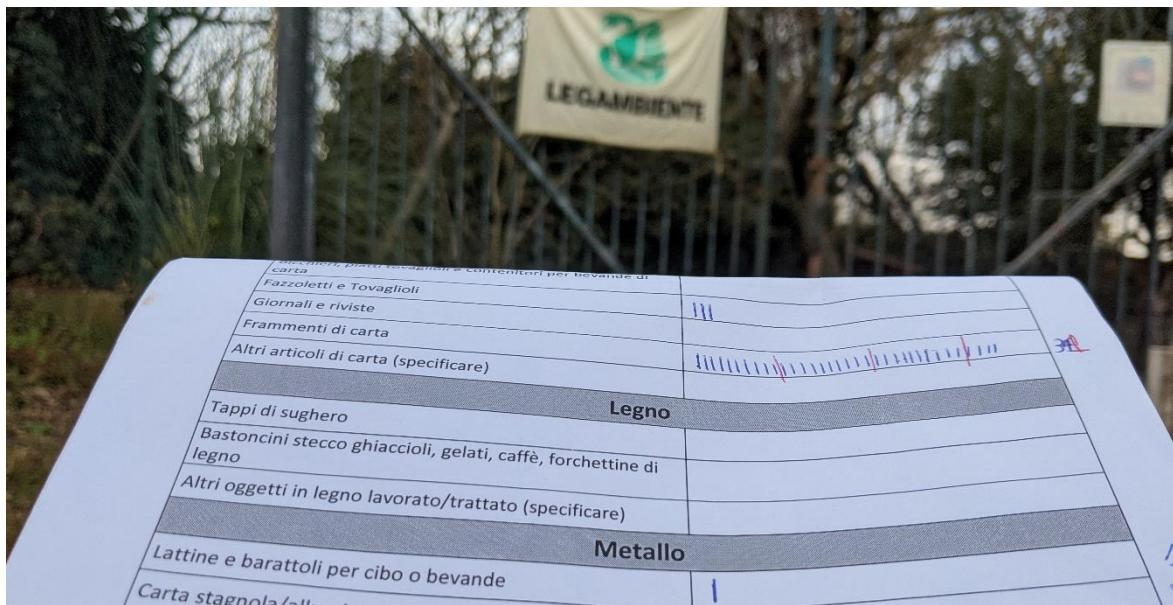
Activism and volunteering have always been the lifeblood of every activity and of the spirit of the association itself, made even more relevant thanks to the impulse of Greta Thunberg and the energy of millions of students, young people and volunteers who took to the streets to protest against the inertia of institutions in the face of the climate crisis.

Volunteers from the Italian Civil Service and international volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programme were involved in this project.



# Methodology

## The surveillance form



The monitoring takes place in a square or rectangular area of 100 square meters, in which the most frequented and dirty areas (such as benches or picnic tables) should be included. The area can be, for example, a 50x2 or 20x5 rectangle; either, it can be a square with sides equal to 10 meters. This area is the **monitored area**.

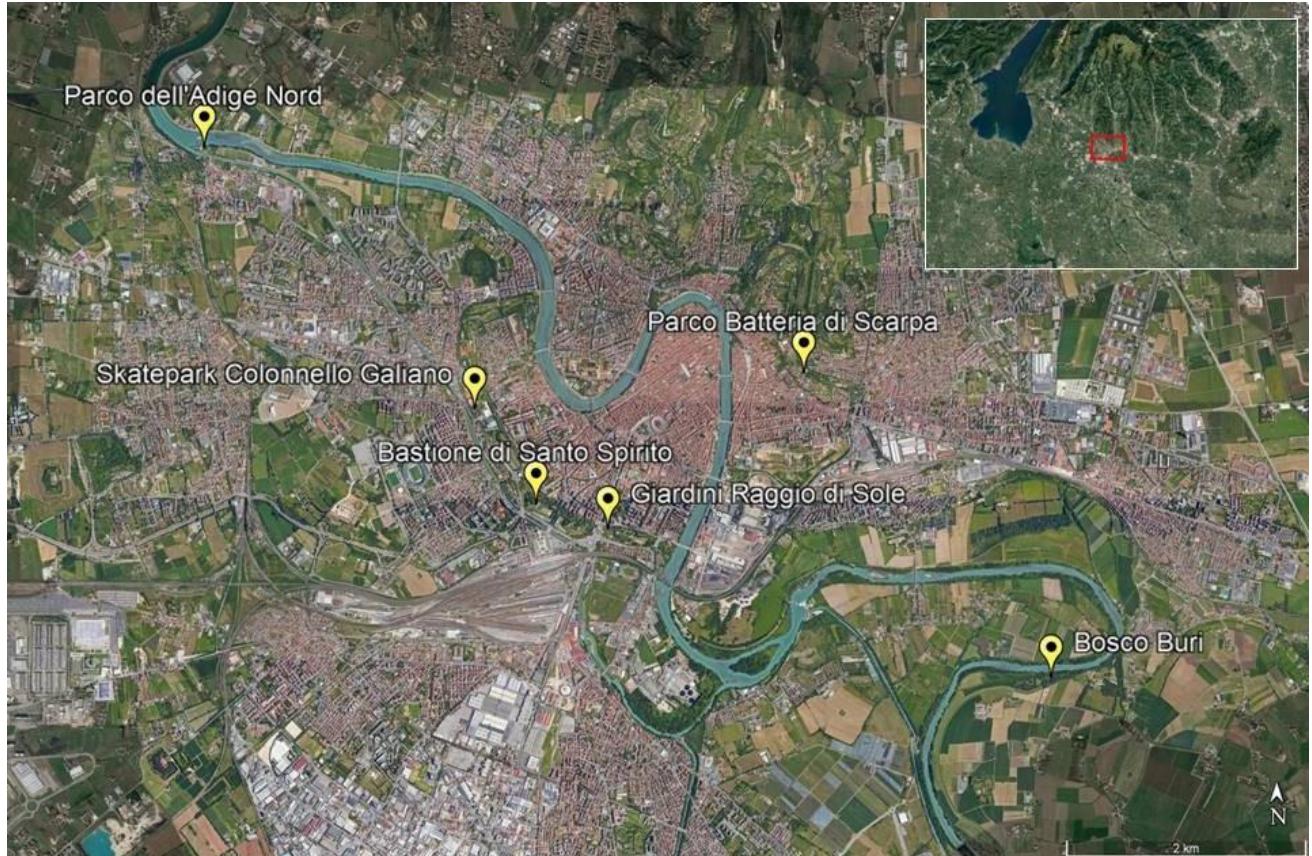
The monitoring is conducted in **medium-small urban parks** where problems of carelessness and presence of waste are noticed. The chosen parks for the project are in different places in the Comune di Verona. Some are next to the city centre while others are in the suburbs of the city. Therefore, it shows different results of the prevailing parks with its accumulation of trash.

Before starting the monitoring, the volunteers must fill up a form with the characteristics of the park and the surveyed area. They have to specify if there are waste baskets and recycling baskets, if they have a cover, if manhole covers or rainwater drains are present, if there are fountains or water taps, if the park is separated from the adjacent streets by railings or walls, who the frequent users of the park are, etc.

Then the waste in the survey area is counted and classified according to the specified categories: **plastic, rubber, textile, paper or cardboard, wood, metal, glass or ceramic, organic, bioplastic, E-waste** (electronic waste).

# The monitored parks

## The location of the parks



During the month of November 2020, the group of volunteers of the Servizio Civile and the European solidarity corps from Legambiente conducted the surveillance of six urban parks in Verona.

- Skatepark Colonnello Galliano
- Parco della Batteria di Scarpa
- Bosco Buri
- Parco dell'Adige Nord
- Giardini Raggio di Sole
- Bastione di Santo Spirito

# Skatepark Colonnello Galliano



DATE

10th November 2020



DISTRICT

San Zeno



202  
cigarette  
ends



57  
pieces of  
plastic

The first monitored park, that has been cleaned, was the **Skatepark Colonnello Galliano** in the district of San Zeno on the 10th November 2020. This park is included inside the Parco delle Mura e dei Forti, a site of historical and environmental value that surrounds the city of Verona for nine kilometres, almost uninterruptedly, with walls and fortifications.

The delimited area comprised a pic-nic table and an overflowed trash bin without cover. These are the areas with the highest accumulation of waste. The most present type of trash were the **cigarette ends**. 202 units were found in an area of 100 m<sup>2</sup>, followed by **unidentified pieces of plastic** and **bottle caps**.

After all, the area suffers from the proximity to the former municipal swimming pools ("Giacomo Conti"), abandoned since 2018 but already in a state of decay for several years. Now the abandoned pools are a place that occasionally gathers some drug dealers. However, the sampled area is still very popular during the day and especially at weekends, when groups of teenagers come to the skatepark to do sports and have fun. At weekends, the area is also populated by some families with little children. All the above reasons can explain the presence the great accumulation of cigarette ends and bottle caps in and around the area.



## Parco della Batteria di Scarpa



DATE

12th November 2020



DISTRICT

Veronetta

The monitoring and cleaning of **Parco della Batteria di Scarpa**, park also located inside the Parco delle Mura, took place on the 12th November 2020. Due to the unprecedented heavy storm that took Verona back in August 2020, the area was full of the fallen trees: for this reason, a change in the supervised zone from 10x10m to 20x5m was necessary. The supervised area included a pic-nic bench, a place where there is a great accumulation of waste.

The amount of **metal** was especially noticeable: for example, **aluminium foil (10)** and **beer cans (7)**.

In addition, there was a lot of plastic trash below the collected trash. **Used tissues, unidentified pieces of plastic and cigarette ends** were found.

In the park there were people doing sport and people who went for a walk with their dogs. But also, seen the type of trash collected, it was recognizable that normally people go to this area to have lunch or dinner.



7  
beer  
cans



# Bosco Buri



DATE  
13th November 2020



DISTRICT  
San Michele Extra di Verona



The **park Bosco Buri** is located nearby Villa Buri in the district of San Michele Extra di Verona.



119  
metal caps



78  
cigarette ends

It is a very large park on the bank of the river Adige very popular with the inhabitants of Verona most of all for picnics with the family and daytrips at Sundays. In fact, the cycle and pedestrian path of the “Risorgive”, part of the “Pontoncello Natural Park” starts here, from the left bank of the Adige to Borghetto sul Mincio, passing through Zevio and Villafranca.

The area is mainly frequented by families, children and passionate sportsmen and it is equipped with barbecues. There are waste bins in the park, but not bins for recycling

In the surveyed area the most present type of trash were **metal caps from beer bottles (119)**, **cigarette ends (78)** and **unidentified pieces of plastic (75)**.

The zones with the highest accumulation of trash were the picnic tables and the barbecues. Under these places **rubber, cords, tissues, pieces of newspapers, aluminium foil and burnt pieces of wood** were found.

During the monitoring of the area, the volunteers noted the absence of public water fountains.

# Parco dell'Adige Nord



DATE

17th November 2020



DISTRICT

Località Chievo



The **Parco dell'Adige** is a protected natural area, regulated by the municipal and the regional governments, that covers almost 2 million square metres. The area includes a riverbelt in the north and in the south of the city collected by paths along the river which enables to admire the geographical characteristics of the river.

The zone is visited by citizens as well as by tourists, who can enjoy and use the park area nearby the centre as they wish.

In the monitored area there were a lot of **cigarette ends** and **pieces of plastic**. Furthermore, **paper waste**, **candy packaging**, **pieces of glass** and **beer mats** were not missing as well.

Most of the trash was accumulated underneath a bench and close to a picnic table.

In addition, there are some uncovered trash bins without waste separation.



# Giardini Raggio di Sole



DATE

19th November 2020



DISTRICT

Cittadella



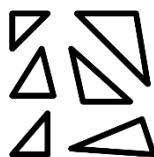
The 19th of November the volunteers conducted the monitoring and cleaning of **Parco Raggio di Sole**. The park, included inside the Parco delle Mura and located nearby the train station of Porta Nuova, is visited by seniors, athletes and dog owners.

In the monitored area there are benches, where plastic objects like **ends of cigarettes (25)** and **unidentified pieces of plastic (29)** were predominantly found. In addition, we picked up numerous **pieces of paper (29)** and some glass bottles.

The park has several places where waste accumulates, such as under the benches and along the railings separating the park from the street.



25  
cigarette  
ends



29  
pieces of  
plastic



29  
pieces of  
paper

## Bastione di Santo Spirito



DATE  
24th November 2020



DISTRICT  
Cittadella

The last monitored area was **Bastione di Santo Spirito**, one of the bastions that constitute the Parco delle Mura e dei Forti of Verona. This park is located nearby the train station and the bus station. This area is frequently visited by athletes, dog owners and seniors. In the supervised area were big rocks, where most of the trash is accumulated.



67  
cigarette  
ends



52  
pieces of  
paper

During the monitoring and cleaning activity, mostly **cigarette ends (67)**, **pieces of paper (52)** and **unidentified pieces of plastic (30)** were found.

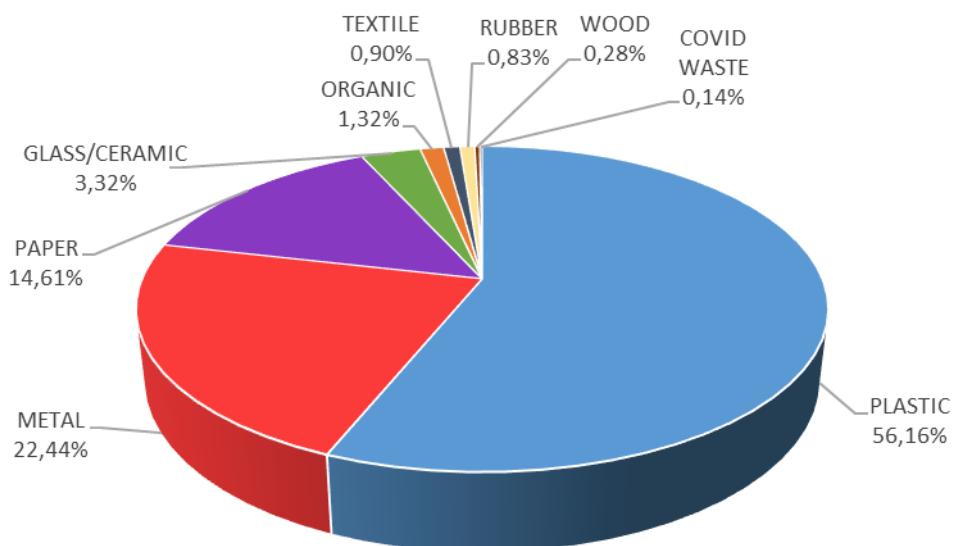
The Bastione di St. Spirito, which has a large area where children play, has accumulations of rubbish around the rocks and at the foot of some trees.



# Balance sheet

Total amount of trash: 1444 pieces  
including

PLASTIC	813	TEXTILS	13	COVID WASTE	2
METAL	324	RUBBER	12		
PAPER or CARTON	211	WOOD	4		
GLASS or CERAMIC	48	BIOPLASTIC	0		
ORGANIC	19	E-WASTE	0		



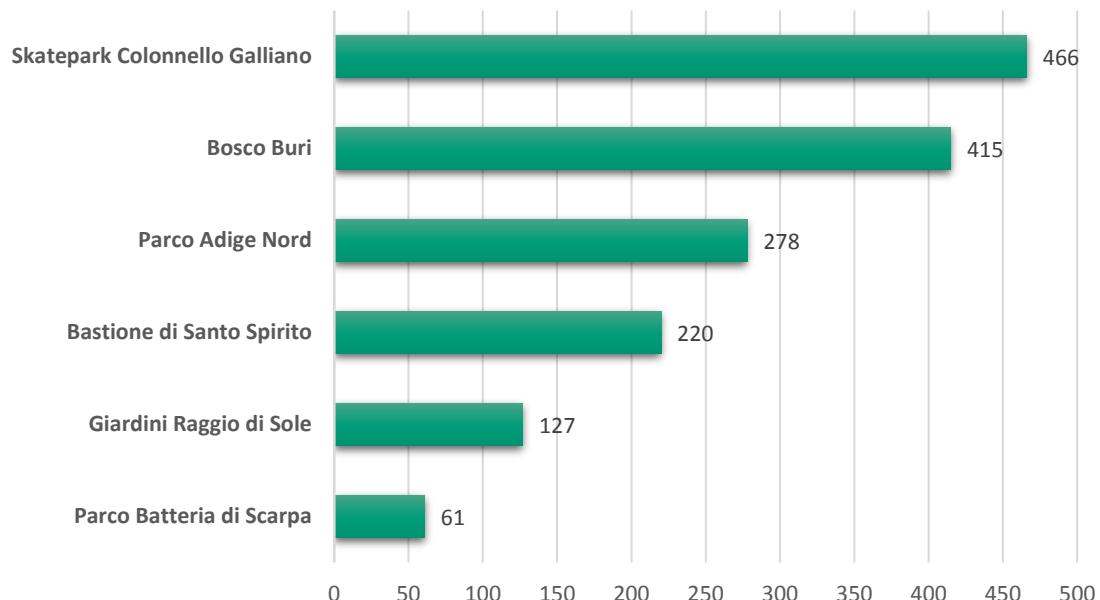
The conducted study shows that plastic is the most present type of trash in the parks of Verona with 56,30%, followed by metal with 22,44%, paper and cardboard with 14,61% and lastly, glass with 3,32%.

In the monitored area we found 2 facemasks, waste related to the actual sanitary emergency.

# Balance sheet

## Classification of the parks in Verona

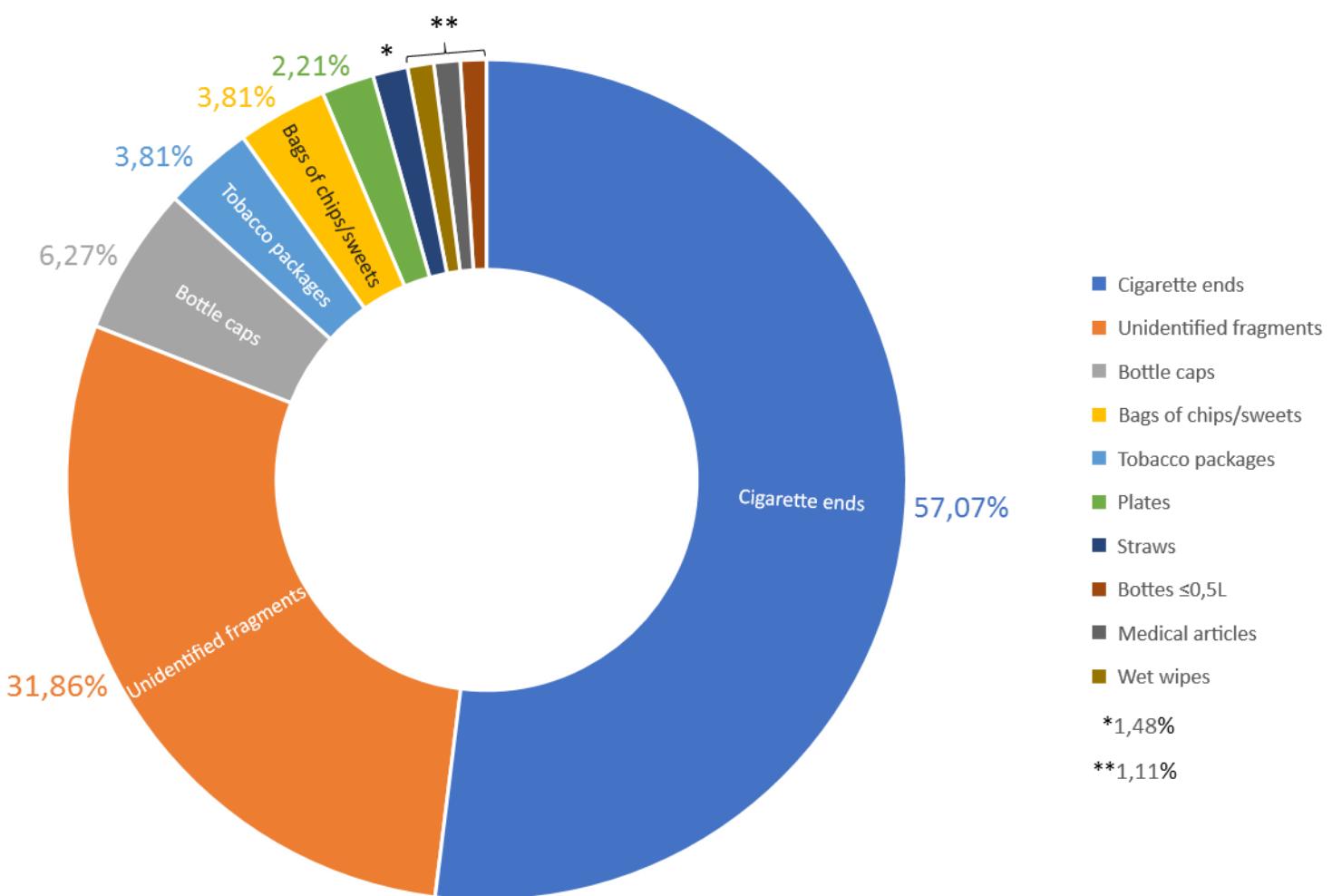
The park with the highest amount of trash in an area of 100m<sup>2</sup> is the Skatepark in Via Colonnello Galliano with 466 units, followed by Bosco Buri with 415 units, then Parco dell'Adige Nord with 278 units, Bastione di Santo Spirito in parco delle Mura with 220 units, Giardini Raggio di Sole nearby Porta Nuova with 127 units and parco near Batteria di Scarpa in Veronetta with 67 units.



# Balance sheet

Total amount of plastic: 813 pieces  
including

Cigarette ends	464
Unidentified pieces	259
Beer mats	51
Bags of chips	31
Cigarette packs	31
Plates	18
Straws	12
Bottles ≤ 0,5L	9
Medical articles	9
Used tissues	9



## Conclusion

With the project "Park Litter" from Legambiente we wanted to examine the presence and the characteristics of the collected trash.

The results are not pleasant, because a lot of trash was found, even though the parks are the only green spaces in the city. Parks represent a valuable use, that should be protected and respected.

In the first position of the collected trash are cigarette ends, followed by innumerable pieces of plastic, beer mats and unidentified pieces of paper.

We found that the accumulation of trash is caused by the carelessness of those who are producing it.

Indeed, there is the possibility to throw away the own trash in the appropriate bins. In all the monitored parks we detected the presence of trash bins, some of which are used for recycling.

It is necessary to be more conscious about the own behaviour to protect the nature, the biodiversity and to not disturb the ecosystem in the closer future.

The behaviour today is more decisive than ever.

## The five proposals of Legambiente

Legambiente proposed five advises to help citizens take care of their area and to revalue the parks in the city.

1. Increase the number of covered trash bins with waste separation in every park of the city.
2. Provide parks with more trash bins to avoid waste accumulation, especially nearby picnic tables and benches.
3. Install signs at the entrances of the parks or on the grass with the request not to smoke or a ban on smoking. Another idea is to implement ashtrays by the trash bins to dispose the cigarette ends.
4. Sensitize citizens about their lifestyle to reduce waste and consumption. Avoid using plastic bottles and use instead reusable water bottles or use of water taps. Bring shopping bags from home to avoid using new plastic bags.
5. Promoting the use of green areas through the direct involvement of citizens, associations and neighbourhood committees in voluntary actions.

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