Dumpster Dive 2011

Project Green Teens

Mt. Trashmore

May 1, 2011

Project Green Teens

Formed in 2009, PGT is a group of environmentally aware teens who strive to improve the environment and the mindset of the community through various projects.

- Environmental audits of schools
- Participation in trail and park cleanups
- Participation in
  - Earth Day
  - Clean the Bay Day
  - Virginia Aquarium's Dolphin Count
- Dumpster Dive

Dumpster Dive

Although it's a messy project, there is logic behind it all.

We had 35 students from 15 schools:

Brandon Middle
Creeds
First Colonial
Green Run
Kemps Landing
Kingsfork Middle
Kingsfork High
Landstown High
Larkspur MS
Nansmond River
Ocean Lakes
Plaza Middle
Princess Anne MS
Tallwood High
Virginia Beach MS

We sorted bags of that came from the trash dumpster.

There were two stations: each had one tarp surrounded by two rows of buckets labeled by type of recyclable or trash.

RECYCLABLE

TRASH

We divided into groups to split the trash between the two tarps.

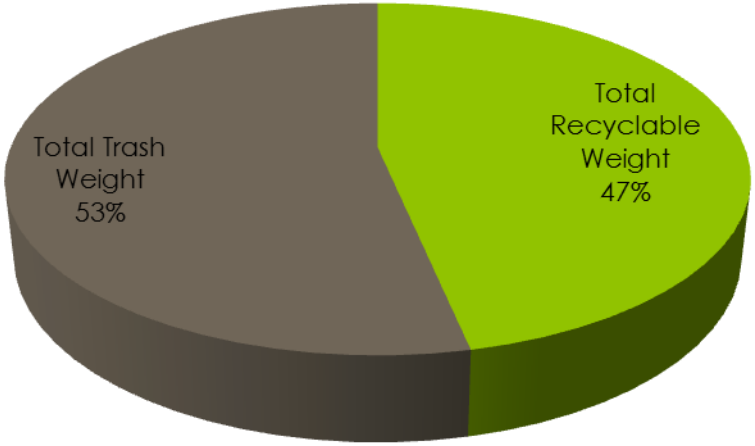
One group also manned a booth, and we spoke our minds in chalk.

Sifting through the trash, we sorted it into buckets accordingly, and once the buckets were full, we weighed them and recorded the data.

We rotated throughout the day and found many interesting items.

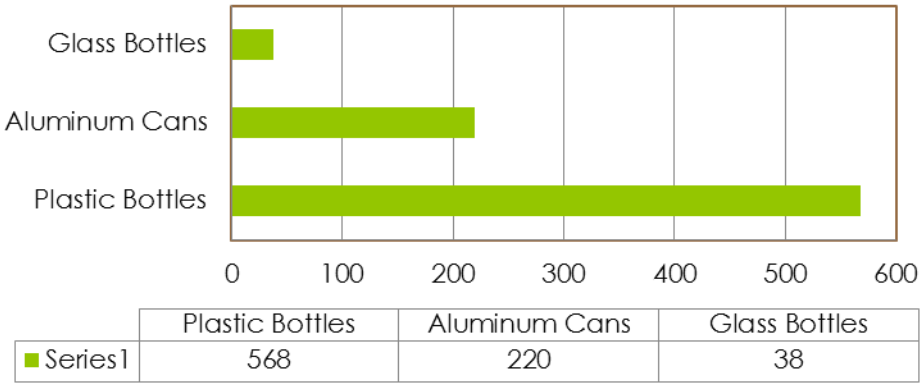
Results

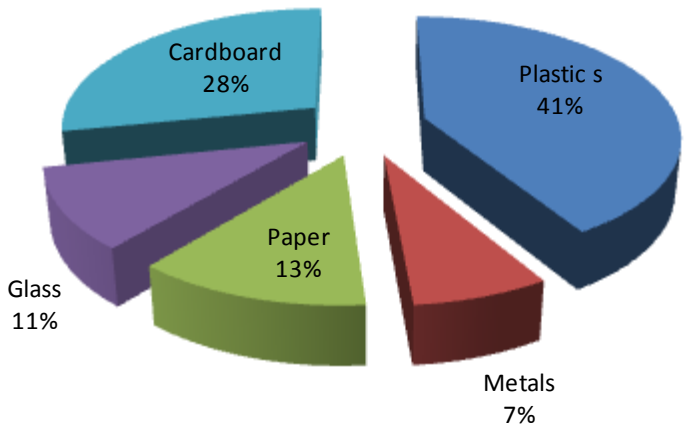
Weight of Recyclables vs. Trash found in Trash Dumpster



Total Recyclable Weight	411
Total Trash Weight	470

Number of Cans and Bottles Thrown into the Trash

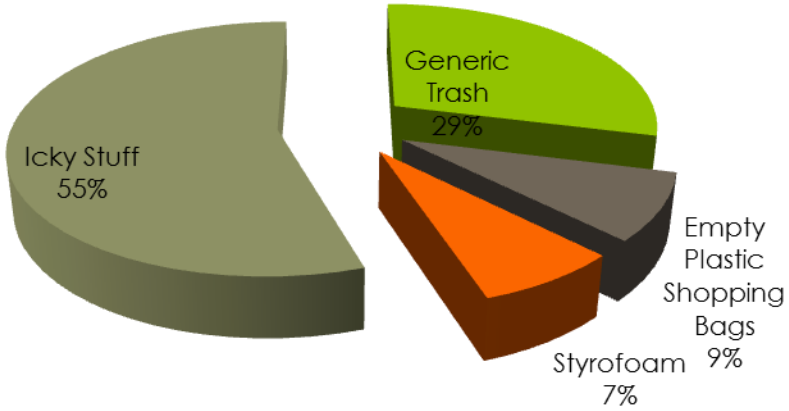




Plastic #1 & #2	170
Metals	30
Paper	51
Glass	44
Cardboard	116
Total Weight	411

Generic and Icky	395
Empty Plastic Shopping Bags	40
Styrofoam	35
Total Weight	470

Percentage of Weight of Trash thrown into the Trash



Generic Trash	136
Empty Plastic Shopping Bags	40
Styrofoam	35
Icky Stuff	259
Total Weight	470

Interesting Items:

pack of cigarettes
CDs
Diapers
6 kites
1 bottle of marinade
Lots of banana peels
2 loaves of bread
bag of bread
propane fuel containers
book
asphalt
baby turtle

Recommendations

Work towards recycling awareness
- signs to encourage/inform that Mt. Trashmore is recycling
- 15-30 second recycling commercial
- Facebook
- Challenge parks to get the public to recycle
  - Pledges

Citywide composting program
- Largest item is icky stuff

Work towards banning styrofoam from special events or large scale public events at the park

You'll be hearing more from us in the future!

Trail Cleanup
Dolphin Count
Old Beach Green Market
Seatack Elementary Garden

Recyclable Items found in the Dumpster
(Weighed in Pounds)

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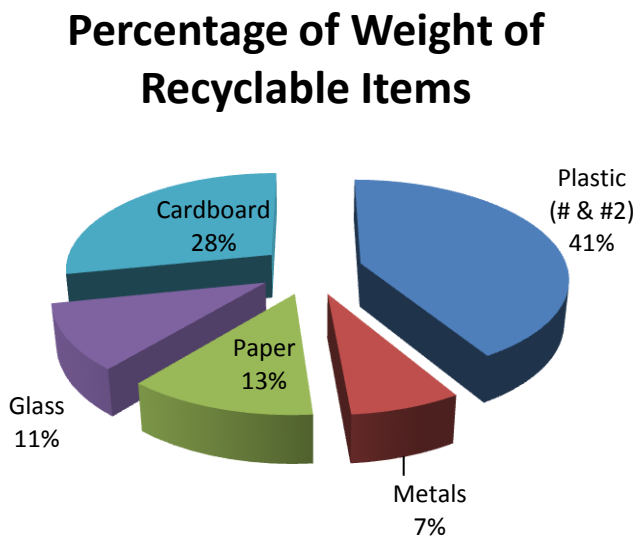
Glass	44
Cardboard	116
Total Weight	411



Trash Items Found in the Dumpster
(Weighed in Pounds)

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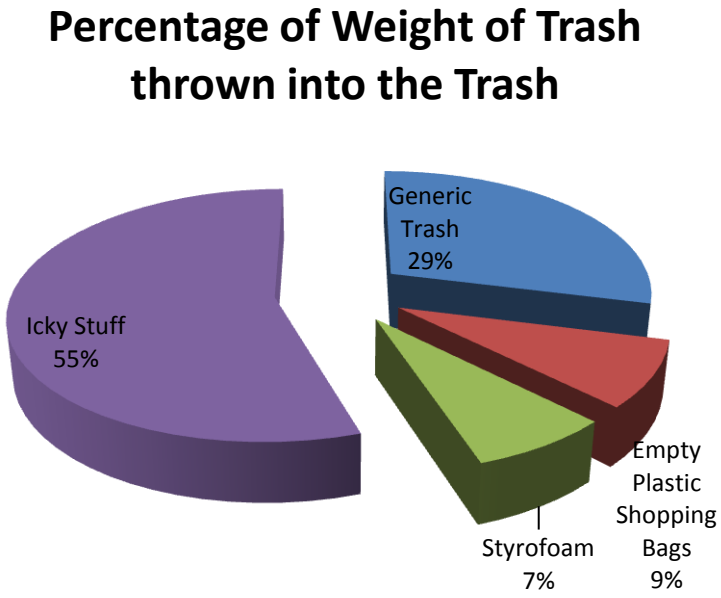
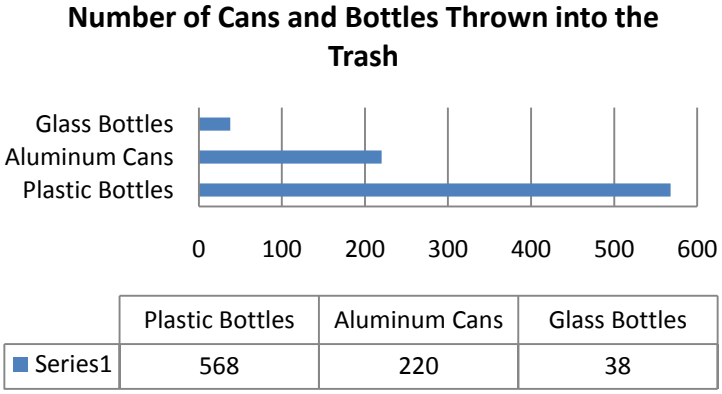
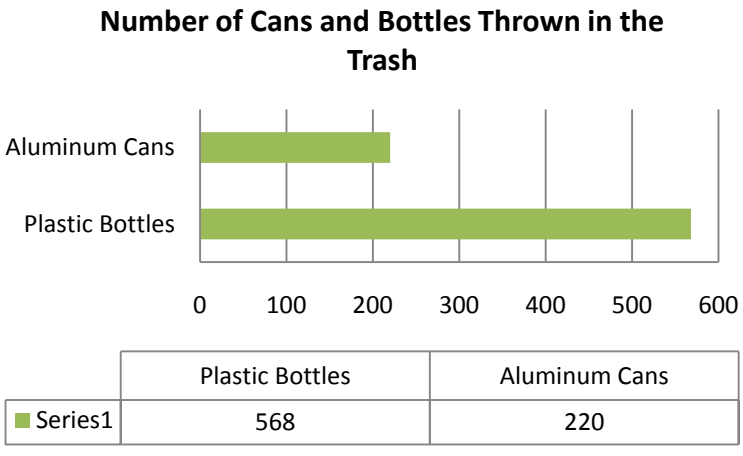


Number of Cans and Bottles Collected

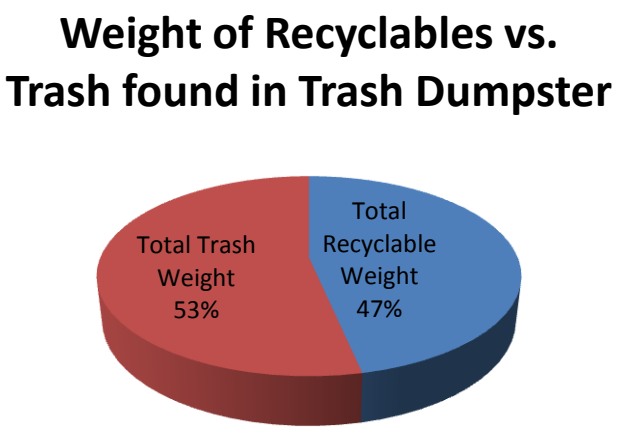
Aluminum Cans	568
Plastic Bottles	220
Glass Bottles	38
Total Collected	826





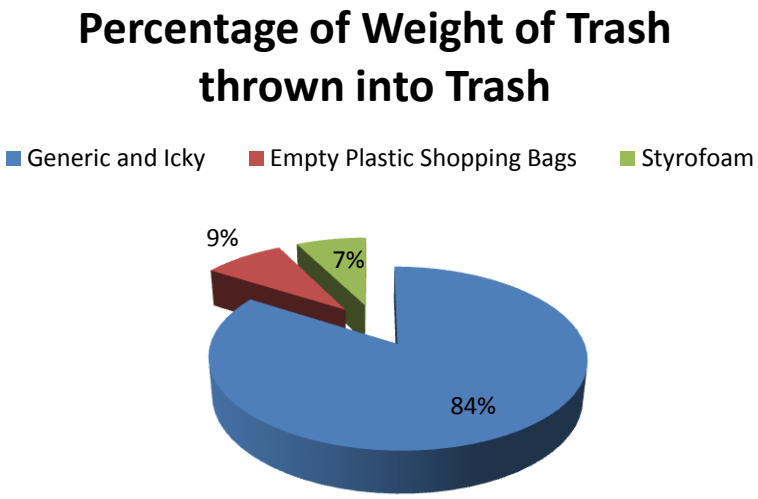
Weight of Trash vs. Recyclable Found Together

Total Recyclable Weight	411
Total Trash Weight	470



Trash Items Found In Dumpster (Version 2)
(Generic and Icky are combined)

Item	Weight
Generic and Icky	395
Empty Plastic Shopping Bags	40
Styrofoam	35
Total Weight	470



Interesting things Found:
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CDs
Diapers
6 kites
1 bottle of marinade
Lots of banana peels
2 loaves of bread
bag of bread
propane fuel container
book
asphalt
Baby turtle