



8th Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, the City's Waste Reduction & Recycling Division hosted the 8th Annual Earth Day Celebration at South Park. There were an estimated 800 to 1,000 attendees at this year's event, making it the largest Earth Day Celebration in Lawrence.

A parade started the Earth Day festivities at 11:00 a.m. The parade was hosted by Environs, a University of Kansas student organization. Many parade participants walked, biked or roller skated as they headed down Massachusetts Street from 7th to 11th Street ending in South Park. A few participants drove alternative fueled vehicles including three City fleet vehicles: an E-85 car, a Toyota Prius and a GEM electric vehicle.

The Earth Day Celebration began at 11:30 a.m. with the arrival of the parade participants and many parade watchers. South Park activities were for all ages and included live music, informational booths, children's activities, and food vendors. For the fourth consecutive year, the Celebration featured the April Showers to Water Towers: a Water Festival for Douglas County with activities focused on water quality and pollution prevention organized by the City's Stormwater Division.

There were 53 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from energy conservation to recycling to land preservation. The City's Parks and Recreation Department lead two butterfly garden demonstrations and South Park tree identification tours throughout the afternoon. Children's activities at the park included inflatable games provided by Jump 4 Kids and a caricature artist. KLZR provided music and a live remote from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Live music began at 12:00 p.m. and kept the crowds entertained until the Celebration ended at 4:00 p.m. The line up included Big Stack Daddy, Edwyrd Grenuo, Iain Ellis, and Gloves. Food vendors were a great addition to the Celebration this year and included PJ's Concessions, Tacos 4 U, and Sno Balls.

In addition to all the Earth Day activities on Saturday, April 19th, the Lawrence Transit System offered free rides all day, providing the experience and benefits of public transportation on all fixed routes.



Left: Representatives from the City's Sustainability Advisory Board lead the parade carrying the *Parade for the Earth* banner. **Right:** People from Half Price Books and the Bookworm hand out reusable shopping bags in the parade.



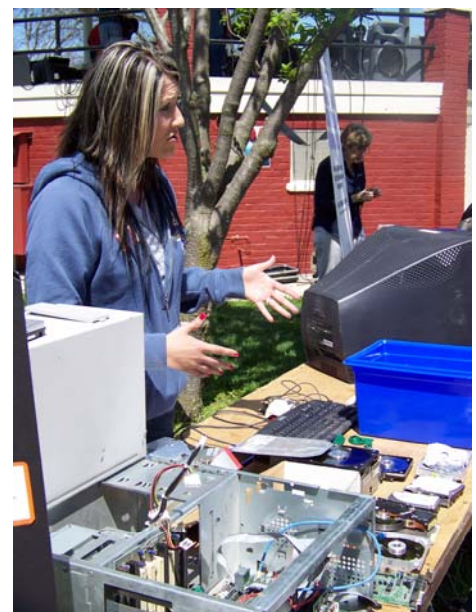
Left: The City's environmentally friendly automobile fleet was showcased in the parade, including the new GEM (global electric motorcar). Right: Members of the community entering the Celebration at South Park after the parade.



Left: Sculptures from the Van Go Mobile Arts Program made from found and recycled objects. Right: The Kansas Sierra Club displays information on land preservation and native plants by Vinland Valley Nursery.



Left: Kansas Department of Health & Environment representatives display information on the Kansas Green Team Program.



Right: Asset LifeCycle displays a deconstructed computer and explains why it is important to recycle electronic waste.



Left: Children enjoy the inflatable games provided by Jumps 4 Kids. Right: John Rasmussen draws caricatures of children enjoying Earth Day.



Left: A staff member from Prairie Park Nature Center talks to children about native snakes and other wildlife. Right: Cheri and Chuck Soules vend Sno Balls to attendees at the Celebration.



Left: Big Stack Daddy performs to a crowded South Park. Right: Gloves entertains attendees at the Celebration.