



## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the City's Waste Reduction & Recycling Division hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Celebration. Events included a parade hosted by KU Environs down Massachusetts Street from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets ending at a celebration in South Park. The Lawrence Transit System offered free rides all day, providing the experience and benefits of public transportation on all fixed routes.

A parade began the events at 11 a.m., and traveled from Watson Park east to Massachusetts Street, then south on Massachusetts Street from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. The parade was once again hosted by the KU Environs. Approximately 100 people from 30 different groups participated in the parade.

The Celebration began at 11:30 a.m. with the arrival of the parade participants and many parade watchers. Even though the sky was overcast and it had been rainy much of the morning, the attendance was great. South Park activities were for all ages and included live music, informational booths, food vendors and, for the fifth consecutive year, the celebration featured 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. Water Festival participants included the Kaw Valley Heritage Alliance, the City of Lawrence Stormwater Division, the Kansas Geological Survey, the Douglas County Farm Bureau Association, and the Kansas Biological Survey.

There were 51 informational tables at the celebration, with topics ranging from native plant education to electronics recycling to wetland preservation. The City's Parks and Recreation Department lead two butterfly garden demonstrations and South Park tree identification tours throughout the afternoon. All activities were free and open to the public. An estimated 600 to 800 people passed through the celebration throughout the afternoon. KLZR provided music and a live remote from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The live music, *Big Stack Daddy*, began at 2:00 p.m. and kept the crowd entertained until the celebration ended at 4:00 p.m. Food vendors were a great addition to the Celebration this year and included PJ's Concessions and Sno Balls.

Two other environmental events joined in the Celebration at South Park: Animal Outreach of Kansas hosted their "Great American Meat-Out" vegan cook-out at the park and "Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earth Care" took place from 8 am to 8 pm in the west portion of South Park. Both were well attended and enjoyed.



**Left: Two citizens represent Mother Earth and Daughter Earth in the Parade. Right: Citizens watch Richard Renner and his Recycle Cycle go down Massachusetts Street.**



**Left: Jack Ellena Honda shows off one of their Civic hybrid cars. Right: A young citizen with the Lawrence Community Environmental School dressed up as an orange traffic cone to encourage people to park the car and ride a bike.**



**Left: Members of Jayhawk Audubon Society help children make and decorate bird houses. Right: Citizens listen to a performance at the Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earth Care event.**



**Left: Vinland Valley Nursery sells native plants and distributes information about environmentally-sound landscaping. Right: Celebration attendees enjoy free vegan food provided by Animal Outreach of Kansas as part of their Great American Meat-Out event.**



**Left: A child learns how water percolates into the ground and rejoins the watershed. Right: Exhibitors at the Water Festival demonstrate how watersheds work.**



**Left: Erin and Beth from the LAZER play music and remote announcements from South Park. Right: Big Stack Daddy performs to a crowd at South Park.**

