



12th Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the City's Waste Reduction and Recycling Division hosted the 12th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Events included a parade hosted by KU Environs, a Water Festival hosted by the Stormwater Division, and South Park tree identification tours hosted by the Parks & Recreation Department. The Lawrence Transit System offered free rides all day, providing the experience and benefits of public transportation on all fixed routes.



Parade

The parade began at 11 a.m., and traveled from Watson Park east to Massachusetts Street, then south on Massachusetts Street from 7th to 11th Streets. It was a windy and somewhat stormy day, but many people still came outside of shops and gathered on street corners to watch and wave as the parade proceeded to the Celebration in South Park. Approximately 400 people from 32 groups participated in the parade.

Celebration

The 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, and food vendors. For the seventh 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.

There were 60 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from native wildlife rehabilitation to food composting to solar energy. The City's Parks and Recreation Department led participants on South Park tree identification tours throughout the afternoon. All activities were free and open to the public. An estimated 1,000 people passed through the celebration during the day. 105.9 KISS FM provided music and a live remote from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Live music performances by *Tommy Johnson Jazz Band*, *Jazz Cigarettes*, and *Byron James*, began at 2 p.m. and kept the crowd entertained until the Celebration ended at 4 p.m. Food vendors were a great benefit to the Celebration and included Crazy 8 Concessions and AIR Summer Snow. There were bins set up at the park for both recycling and food waste composting.

Two other environmental events joined in the Celebration at South Park: Animal Outreach of Kansas hosted their "Great American Meat-Out" vegan cook-out and "Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earthcare" took place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Both were well attended and enjoyed.



Left: Kathleen Nuckolls, with the Sustainability Advisory Board, and family carried the Earth Day Parade banner and led the parade down Massachusetts Street to South Park. **Right:** Members of the University of Kansas student group, KU Environs, organized and participated in the Earth Day Parade.



Left: Prairie Park Nature Center displayed some native snakes and animals. **Right:** Celebration attendees took a walk "underground" with the help of DG County Conservation District's info trailer.



Left: Children decorate the Futures Fund display board with their ideas of how to make Lawrence a better place. **Right:** AIR Summer Snow offered shaved ice for sale from their self-contained electric mobile cart.



Left: Presenter entertains crowd at the Oread Friends Meeting's "Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earthcare." **Right:** Children observe native owls on display from Operation Wildlife and learn about rehabilitation efforts.



Left: Participants of the Water Festival learn about preventing storm water issues from Shawna Trarbach at the City's Stormwater Division table. **Right:** Laura Calwell, with Friends of the Kaw, talks about pollution during the Water Festival.



Left: The band entertains the crowd with great music. **Right:** Richard Renner and the Recycle Cycle entertain children and teach them about reusing and recycling.