



15th Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 11, 2015, the City's Solid Waste Division hosted the 15th Annual Earth Day Celebration. Events included a parade hosted by KU Environs, a Water Festival hosted by the City's Stormwater Division, and South Park tree identification tours hosted by the Lawrence Parks and 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 beautiful, sunny day; many people came outside of shops and gathered on street corners to watch and wave as the parade proceeded to the Celebration in South Park. Approximately 200 people from 24 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 and informational booths.

There were 70 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from bicycle safety to wildlife rehabilitation to upcycled crafts to tower gardens. 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 2,000 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 *TashaMayaLaura*, *Lynate Pettengill* (an exhibitor with Citizens Climate Lobby), *KT/DG*, *The Heebie Jeebies* and *Sugarfoot Detour*, began at 1 p.m. and kept the crowd entertained until the Celebration ended at 4 p.m. There were bins set up at the park for both recycling and food waste composting.

For the sixth year, the Oread Friends Meeting included their "Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earthcare" in conjunction with the Celebration from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always, it was well attended and enjoyed.



Left: KU Recycling drove one of their recycling collection vehicles in the parade. **Right:** Cub Scout Pack 3013 walked in the parade with hand-made signs about water conservation.



Left: Operation Wildlife, Inc. displayed several birds of prey and educated people regarding wildlife rehabilitation. **Right:** Jayhawk Audubon Society helped children make upcycled bird houses.



Left: Sunrise Project talked to residents about food and their environment. **Right:** Messner Family Farms sold all natural body care products made from their own beeswax and talked about the importance of bees in the environment.



Left: COL LPRD displayed the new electric aerial lift truck. **Right:** One of the scheduled bands performed in the gazebo.



Left: COL Stormwater educated residents about run-off and Stormwater issues. **Right:** Children played on the Recycle Cycle and learned about recycling.



Left: Celebration attendees got to choose from several food vendors, including The Purple Carrot Co-op food truck. **Right:** Jumps 4 Kids entertained children with a bounce house and bounce maze.