



14th Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 19, 2014, the City's Solid Waste Division hosted the 14th 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 300 people from 36 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. For the ninth 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 70 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from solar cooking to wildlife rehabilitation to upcycled crafts to native grassland preservation. 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 *Ozzie Backus*, *Byron James*, *Christen Buie* and *Aysenur Kolivar*, 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 fifth 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: Lawrence Coalition of Peace and Justice’s float included children waving and singing to the crowd. **Right:** A citizen drives an ELF “organic transit” vehicle in the parade.



Left: Creative Lighting displayed upcycled crafts made from glass. **Right:** Engineers without Borders-Sunflower State Professionals demonstrated alternative construction designs.



Left: Grassland Heritage Foundation hosted a native plant sale. **Right:** Jayhawk Audubon Society helped children make bird houses out of recycled cartons.



Left: Mid-America Electric Auto Association displayed a new Tesla. **Right:** The Oread Friends Meeting hosted the "Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out, Dance Out, Act Out for Earth Care".



Left: Participants of the Water Festival learned about water systems and conservation at five different stations. **Right:** Friends of the Kaw talked to participants about river conservation.



Left: Air Summer Snow sold shaved ice from their electric vehicle. **Right:** Jumps 4 Kids entertained children with a bounce house and bounce maze.