



13th Annual Earth Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 20, 2013, the City's Waste Reduction and Recycling Division hosted the 13th 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 slightly overcast 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 33 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 eighth 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 54 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from solar cooking to ride-sharing 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 1,500 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 *the Silos*, *the Heebie Jeebies*, *the 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 Freeb!rds World Burrito, PJ's Concessions and AIR Summer Snow. There were bins set up at the park for both recycling and food waste composting.

For the fourth 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: Representatives from The Merc pushed shopping carts down Massachusetts Street to South Park in the parade and handed out fruit. **Right:** Cans for the Community pulled a trailer in the parade to show everyone what their recycling drop-off bins look like and aluminum cans they have collected.



Left: Briggs Nissan of Lawrence displayed an all-electric Nissan Leaf and charging station. **Right:** Prairie Moon Waldorf School helped children create "fairy houses" at a craft table.



Left: Children climbed in kayaks and tried out their paddling skills with the owners of Up A Creek. **Right:** Freeb!rds World Burrito vended lunch options at the park.



Left: Celebration attendees wrote notes to Congress regarding climate concerns at the table for the Citizens Climate Lobby. **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 ground water systems at the Kansas Geological Society's table. **Right:** U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary talked to Water Festival participants about water pollution and aquatic nuisance species.



Left: The band entertained the crowd with great music. **Right:** Jumps 4 Kids provided children with two different options for venting their excess energy.