



16th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration

On Saturday, April 23, 2016, the City's Solid Waste Division hosted the 16th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration. Events included a parade down Massachusetts St. coordinated by KU Environs, South Park tree identification tours hosted by the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, and free yoga in the park provided by OmTree Shala. 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 11:00 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 18 groups participated in the parade by foot, bike, or vehicle.

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 60 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from water conservation and fair trade goods to upcycled crafts and school gardens. Seven local food vendors were set up at the park for event goers to choose from. The City's Parks and Recreation Department led participants on South Park tree identification tours throughout the afternoon. The Celebration was free and open to the public. New activities this year included a free bike valet provided by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, free yoga in the park provided by OmTree Shala and the Scrap Showdown metal sculpture contest and silent auction sponsored by Advantage Metals Recycling—60% of proceeds from the auction went to Van Go, Inc. The radio station 105.9 KISS FM provided music and a live remote from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Live music performances by *Lancy Fahy*, *KT/DG*, *Jack Klinknett* and *Sugarfoot Detour*, began at 1:00 p.m. and kept the crowd entertained until the Celebration ended at 4:00 p.m. There were bins set up at the park for both recycling and food waste composting. An estimated 2,500 people passed through the Celebration during the day. More event photos can be found at www.LawrenceRecycles.org.



Left: Staging for the parade began at Watson Park. **Right:** A Meadowlark 4-H member carried a chicken in the foreground, as the Health Department's Bike Parade group followed behind.



Left: Soka Gakai International played drums during the parade. **Right:** City's Solid Waste Division staff played the Recycling Trivia game with event goers. The game teaches 'yes' vs. 'no' items for the city's residential recycling program and provides a giveaway item to people who play.



Left: The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department offered a free bike valet to event goers who rode their bikes. A local Boy Scout troop helped run the valet. **Right:** Eagles' Rest Natural Home store had an all-natural latex mattress on display at their exhibitor space.



Left: City's Parks & Recreation Department displayed their electric aerial lift truck and provided three tree ID tours of South Park. **Right:** One of the scheduled bands performed in the gazebo.



Left: New this year was a partnership with OmTree Shala to provide free yoga in the park. Sessions ran every 30 minutes. **Right:** Also new this year, Advantage Metals Recycling hosted the Scrap Showdown which displayed three recycled metal sculptures constructed by local artists. 60% of proceeds from the silent auction of the sculptures went to Van Go Inc., 40% to the artists.



Left: Celebration attendees got to choose from seven local food vendors, including The Purple Carrot Co-op food truck and Fine Thyme Food. **Right:** Jumps 4 Kids and the Recycle Cycle entertained children at the event.