



## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration

April 22, 2018, marked the 48th anniversary of Earth Day — a day intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. To celebrate, the City's Solid Waste Division hosted the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Events included a parade down Massachusetts Street coordinated by KU Environs, South Park tree identification tours hosted by the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department, and a Bike Valet sponsored by the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. The Lawrence Transit System offered free rides all day, providing the experience and benefits of public transportation on all fixed routes.

The purpose of the Earth Day Celebration is to gather community members to connect, discover, and celebrate local organizations and businesses who support a healthy, sustainable environment. At the same time, the Celebration engages event goers with fun activities and exhibits. Fifteen volunteers participated to help set-up and clean-up the event.



### Parade

The parade began at 11:00 a.m., and traveled south on Massachusetts Street from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Streets. Despite the overcast 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 150 people from 16 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 environmental informational booths.

There were 40 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from water and habitat conservation to renewable energy and gardening. Five 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. 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 began at 12:30 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 800 people passed through the Celebration during the day. More event photos can be found [here](#).







**Left:** KU Environs provided hands on crafts with recycled materials. **Center:** City Commissioner Matthew Herbert and his family attended the Celebration in South Park. **Right:** For the tenth year, the Oread Friends Meeting hosted the Read Out, Speak Out, Sing Out on Behalf of the Environment.



**Left:** University of Kansas environmental student group, Environs, worked with Solid Waste Division staff to organize the Parade. **Right:** The Solid Waste Division table theme was centered around zero waste and waste reduction in regards to grocery shopping, travel and dining – as well as showcasing the yard waste cart, backyard compost bin and solid waste services.



**Left:** The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department offered a free bike valet to event goers who rode their bikes, pictured is Vice Mayor Lisa Larsen who rode her bike in the Parade. **Right:** The KU Natural History Museum parked their Mobile Museum at the Celebration offering hands on biodiversity displays on the go!





**Left:** City's Parks & Recreation staff provided tree ID tours of South Park – they also displayed their electric aerial lift truck and were on site to answer questions with the Kansas Forest Service. **Center & Right:** Five local musical acts performed, arranged by a volunteer community organizer.



**Left:** Parade onlookers received free bananas from The Merc Co-op. **Right:** 16 local groups participated in the Parade. Joining them were many families and community members who took part by walking with handmade signs and displays or riding scooters and bikes.



**Left & Right:** Celebration attendees got to choose from five local food vendors, including Boyer's Artisan Meatballs, Fine Thyme Foods, Air Summer Snow, MoonFluf, Luckyberry Juice and Repetition Coffee.