



19th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration

April 22, 2019, marked the 49th anniversary of Earth Day — a day intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. To celebrate, the City hosted the 19th Annual Earth Day Parade & Celebration on Saturday, April 20. 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 free yoga in the park provided by Westside Yoga. 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. 28 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 8th to 11th Streets. Since it was such a beautiful day, people came outside of shops and gathered on street corners to watch and wave as the parade proceeded to the Celebration in South Park. 15 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 55 informational tables at the Celebration, with topics ranging from water and habitat conservation to renewable energy and gardening. 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. 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 1500 people passed through the Celebration during the day. More event photos can be found [here](#).





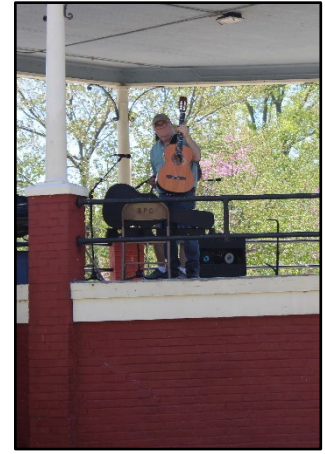
Left: KU Enviros provided a DIY planting station for kids. **Center:** Good Energy Solutions educates visitors on the benefits of solar energy. **Right:** Native Lands LLC prepares their educational material on native plants, natural areas, and gardening for wildlife.



Left: Laura Pennock with Fairy Fox Design paints ladybugs on a child's arm. **Right:** The Solid Waste Division table theme was centered on waste reduction and reuse. They also provided an activity around how to reduce contamination and recycle properly.



Left: Lawrence Drives Electric hosted a pop-up car show after participating in the Earth Day Parade. **Right:** The Sierra Club, which is the oldest grassroots environmental group in the United States, provides information and an origami butterfly activity.



Left: City's Parks & Recreation staff provided tree ID tours of South Park. **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:** 15 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 seven local food vendors, including Boyer's Artisan Meatballs, KANbucha, Torched Goodness, Queen of Tarts, JB's Tacos, Sarah's Sweet Tarts and Treats and Kona Ice.