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April 22, 2023, marks the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Texoma Earth Day Festival. The festival includes vendors, entertainment, demonstrations, workshops, children's activities, and recycling. The Texoma Earth Day Festival will be held in the Sherman Municipal Ballroom, Lucy Kidd-Key Park adjacent to the Municipal Building, and on North Rusk and North Elm Streets. Registration for vendors closes on at the end of the day April 10. Registration forms can be found on our website <https://www.earthdaytexoma.org>.

In the Municipal Ballroom, four organizations will provide children's activities that focus on recycled materials, science and art. Those organizations are Empty Canvas Creations (community painting project and how to create your own pigments from recycled materials), Texoma Quilt Guild (learn design and sewing skills using recycled fabric, appropriate for all ages), Circle Tree Community School (a variety of science-based learning activities about the ocean, tornados and erosion), and Grayson College Visual Arts Department (newspaper origami planters as well as other origami skills). In addition, a free Children's Clothing Swap sponsored by Red River Unitarian Universalist Church will take place on the ballroom stage. We always have more clothing than we need, so please send anyone you know who is in need. Two art shows will also be on display in the Municipal Ballroom. Sherman Parks & Recreation is sponsoring a children's art show and contest, and the annual recycled sculpture show from Fred Douglass Early Learning Center families will be on display. Entries in the Parks & Recreation show need to be dropped off at their office by April 18.

On the grounds, attendees will find a nice variety of vendors, displays, music on the gazebo stage, demonstrations and other entertainment. Non-profit organizations have a lower registration fee and are invited to give information about their organizations or upcoming events. Many of our vendors sell hand made products, both food based cottage businesses and crafters. We welcome back Tacos Hondumex, a staple at our festival. We also have several new food vendors, including a coffee truck, a wood fired pizza oven, the new HTeaO business in Sherman, and a gluten free baker. Food vendors will be on or near Rusk Street. A free plant swap sponsored by The Mustard Seed will be among the vendors. Attendees are invited to bring plants they need to thin or have propagated and take whatever they want. Plants should be labeled and in some kind of container.

Plan to come by the Information Booth for a free sample of Earth Breeze laundry detergent sheets and a limited number of free cloth shopping bags. Earth Breeze donated more than 1000 laundry detergent sheet packets with a retail value of more than \$20,000. We are excited to share this generous gift with attendees and vendors at the festival.

The entertainment schedule is now full and offers a nice variety of musical styles, including gospel and folk musicians from the Dallas Folk Music Society. The entertainment includes the North Texas Children's Chorus, Rylin Rivas, Legend Martial Arts, Red River Valley Dulcimer Club, One Voice Choir, Little Goddess Trybe, Keepers of the Sound, and The New Crusty Minstrels (members of the Dallas Folk Music Society). Trashion VII, the annual trash fashion show sponsored by Grayson College Visual Arts Department, takes the stage at 3:10 pm. Participants will line up in the Municipal Ballroom around 2:45. Entry forms will be available for those who did not sign up beforehand. The entertainment schedule can be found on the website:

The workshops will be moved out of the ballroom kitchen and into a party tent on the grounds this year. All of the workshops will take place in the afternoon after the shredder stops. Linn Cates will present a workshop at noon on creating Monarch habitats, known as Monarch Way Stations. She will provide information about the appropriate type of milk weed to plant for hosting Monarch caterpillars in this region, as well as plants that will provide nectar and attract adult butterflies to your garden. Byron Compton of SGT Farms will present a workshop on honeybees and beekeeping at 1:30 pm. The workshop will focus on Honeybees, their importance to our food chain, threats they face, a look at the "beekeeping year," products from the hive in addition to honey, benefits of pure local honey, misconceptions about bees and honey, hive organization and behavior, and a question and answer period. At 3:00, Amy Hoffman-Shehan will

present a workshop on natural mosquito control that does not harm more desirable pollinators. Attendees will learn how to create a simple mosquito trap that attracts female mosquitos to lay their eggs in an atmosphere that won't support survival.

Coordinated activities include the Friends of the Sherman Public Library used book sale, pet adoptions through the Sherman Animal Shelter and a blood drive through the Texoma Regional Blood Center. The used book sale will be at 1000 N East Street in Sherman. Attendees can find the Animal Shelter adoption trailer and the blood mobile on Rusk Street.

Recycling continues to be a major attraction to the festival, and we have managed to add to the items we can accept. This year, First United Bank will sponsor a shred truck from 9:00 am to noon. The other recycling options will be available until containers fill. Those include flattened cardboard, paper of all types with the exceptions of wax coated or foil lined giftwrap, plastics 1-2-5, tin/aluminum cans, Styrofoam, plastic bags/bubble wrap/shrink film, textiles, latex paint, electronic waste, and unused medications such as prescription, over the counter and pet meds. Liquids and inhalants will not be accepted. Recyclers will enter Elm Street from the south on Pecan Street. On the municipal grounds, attendees can take eyeglasses, reading glasses and sunglasses to the Sherman Noon Lions Club. Function Four LLC will accept used ink cartridges at their booth. Anyone who wishes to recycle at the festival should read the specific instructions and lists of materials accepted on the festival website, [www.earthdaytexoma.org](http://www.earthdaytexoma.org).