

Earth Day

EARTH DAY

# San Lorenzo Park to host Santa Cruz celebration

Saturday event features music, food, information, crafts and more

By CATHY KELLY

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SANTA CRUZ — Solar-enhanced pedicab rides. A graywater-in-your-home workshop. Valet bike parking. A chance to win a two-person Smart Car, courtesy of New Leaf and something called Smart Chicken. All of it free and zero waste.

No, it's not just another day in Santa Cruz. It's Earth Day 2011, Saturday, when live music, oodles of Earth-friendly information, organic food and wine, arts and crafts for kids and more will be centered at San Lorenzo Park.

Festivities will be at the park just across the footbridge from downtown (behind Trader Joe's) from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The primary organizers are the city, the county and Ecology Action, said Cathlin Atchison, a program manager for the city of Santa Cruz. The list of sponsors is long.

They all hope people will come on down, Atchison said, preferably via bike or foot or

other eco-friendly apparatus.

"It should be a beautiful day, and it's right there along the river," she said. "It will be great."

The city had an Earth Day celebration in the 1970s, when Earth Day was born, and then there was a long hiatus until the annual celebrations returned four years ago, Atchison said.

"Every year we get more and more interest and a broader range of people interested in coming out," she said.

New this year are five free workshops at the top of each hour, starting at 11 a.m. The topics are composting, green building basics, earth-

friendly eating, graywater in your home and composting (again).

Hallcrest Vineyards will host a wine garden overflowing with organic wine, and UC Santa Cruz students will help with arts and crafts for children in a environmental-themed craft tent. Even the lawn bowlers have joined in, and will be giving free lessons at their court in the park.

"We're really trying to make this a collaborative effort in the community," Atchison said.

As the Blue Heron Design Group's slogan on the event flier puts it, "We're all in this together."

## IF YOU GO

EARTH DAY SANTA CRUZ 2011

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** San Lorenzo Park, benchlands area. The park is at 137 Dakota Ave., near Ocean Street and Soquel Avenue. Parking is limited. The park is also accessible from a foot bridge spanning the river off River Street between Water Street and Soquel Avenue.

**INFO:** [www.ecocruz.org](http://www.ecocruz.org)

There's more. 4-15-11

Several schools have created green projects which will be recognized, Atchison said. And a number of electric vehicles will also be on display. Vendors will fill more than 80 booths, she said.

Entertainers will perform on a solar-powered stage, courtesy of Solar Technologies.

They include Peter Weiss, the singing scientist, at 11 a.m.; The Unitarian Universalist "Just in Time" choir, at noon; SqueezeDaddy at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and the Kid Zone Award Show at 2 p.m.

A river cleanup is planned for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.ecocruz.org](http://www.ecocruz.org).