A RESOLUTION

authorizing the City Manager to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for construction of a third baseball field at the Thomas E. 'Country' Atkins Jr. Memorial Park Baseball Complex.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for construction of a third baseball field at the Thomas E. 'Country' Atkins Jr. Memorial Park Baseball Complex.

SECTION 2. If a grant is awarded, the City of Columbia accepts all responsibilities under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, the project site to be protected by the LWCF rules and regulations in perpetuity, maintenance of the park for public outdoor recreation purposes, compliance with the provisions of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, underground wiring of all telephone and electrical wires under 15KV within the park both under this project and in the future, provisions of facilities which are accessible to and usable by people with special needs.

SECTION 3. The estimated cost of this improvement is $166,667.00. The amount of the grant applied for will be $75,000.00 with the City providing $91,667.00 in matching funds.

ADOPTED this ______ day of ___________________________, 2009.

ATTEST:

______________________________  ______________________________
City Clerk Mayor and Presiding Officer
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

______________________________
City Counselor
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting authorization to submit a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for partial funding for the construction of a third baseball field at the Thomas E. “Country” Atkins Memorial Park Baseball Complex. Total project cost is estimated at $166,667.00. The grant would provide 45% ($75,000) of the project cost with the local match being $91,667 ($89,909 coming from the previously designated Park Sales Tax budget for the Youth Athletic Field Complex project # C00280 and $1,758 from the parks annual improvements account). If received, the grant would be used for development purposes only with the application and planning being performed by park staff. The proposed LWCF Grant would be used to provide the third field in the proposed five field complex. The first two fields were completed in 2009 with partial funding from an LWCF Grant submitted by Boone County.

DISCUSSION: The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is currently accepting applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund FY-2010 program. The maximum grant match for the program is $75,000 not to exceed 45% of the project cost. The City’s funding source for its match will come from the Park Sales Tax. The LWCF is a competitive grant program and provides funding for a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects intended to help communities meet the recreation needs of the citizens. The continued efforts to complete the proposed five field baseball complex at Atkins Park will help meet the demand for additional baseball fields for use by youth of Columbia and Boone County.

FISCAL IMPACT: If the grant is received, the Parks and Recreation Department would initiate construction of the third baseball field (unlighted) at Atkins Park. Total estimated cost of the project is $166,667. Upon completion of the third field, the Department would incur some increased maintenance expenses. As there are two fields already being maintained at the site, the additional costs would be limited to those costs specifically related to maintenance of the third field (mowing, field preparation, fertilization, etc) and are estimated at approximately $5,000 - $6,000 per year. Staff believes that approximately fifty per cent of the additional costs will be offset by additional revenue generated from use of the field.

SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS: Pass the resolution authorizing the submittal of the grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.