A RESOLUTION

declaring the necessity for construction of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden at Stephens Lake Park; stating the nature of and the estimate of the cost of the improvement; providing for payment for the improvement; providing for compliance with the prevailing wage law; and setting a public hearing.

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

SECTION 1. The City Council deems the construction of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden at Stephens Lake Park, including construction of a one-table picnic shelter, necessary to the welfare and improvement of the City.

SECTION 2. The nature and scope of the improvement shall consist of furnishing all labor, materials, transportation, insurance and all other items, accessories and incidentals thereto necessary for the complete construction of the improvement.

SECTION 3. The estimated cost of this improvement is $81,387.17.

SECTION 4. Payment for this improvement shall be made from donated funds and such other funds as may be lawfully appropriated.

SECTION 5. Any work done in connection with the construction of the improvement specified above shall be in compliance with the provisions of the prevailing wage laws of the State of Missouri.

SECTION 6. A public hearing in respect to this improvement will be held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall Building, 701 E. Broadway, Columbia, Missouri, at 7:00 p.m. on December 20, 2010. The City Clerk shall cause notice of this hearing to be published in a newspaper published in the City.

ADOPTED this ______ day of ___________________________, 2010.

ATTEST:

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

______________________________  
City Counselor
TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff
DATE: November 24, 2010
RE: Improvements to Stephens Lake Park: Hindman Discovery Garden

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
The Department of Parks and Recreation is requesting authorization to proceed with improvements to Stephens Lake Park, specifically, the construction of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden. Funds for the construction and short-term maintenance of the garden are being provided through donations and the Department would like to appropriate two donations as part of this ordinance. The first is $78,887.17 that has been raised for the construction of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden and the second is $2,500 that was donated by the Columbia Garden Club for a single table shelter at Stephens. Construction is expected to begin this winter as weather allows with an estimated completion date of spring 2012.

DISCUSSION:
The Stephens Lake Park Master Plan calls for the theme of Stephens Lake Park to be a combination “Arboretum and Park” and the construction of the Discovery Garden will further enhance the Arboretum aspect. The Discovery Garden will be located adjacent to the Riechmann Pavilion. Funds for the Garden were raised privately, led by former City Manager Ray Beck and Columbia Daily Tribune publisher Hank Waters. At this time, $78,887.17 has been raised, exceeding the initial goal of $60,000. The Discovery Garden will feature three theme gardens and a council ring designed in the style of Native American fire rings. The theme gardens will offer separate concepts:

- Grow to Know the World: plant collections from around the world that have influenced Missouri gardens.
- What Did Daniels See?: highlights of the work of Francis Potter Daniels, a University of Missouri botanist who studied Boone County plants early in the 20th century.
- Eye for Improvement/Plant Hybridization: the effects of hybridizing plants, featuring peppermint, strawberries and more.

Stephens Lake Park was chosen as the site for the Discovery Garden, because it matches the Arboretum aspect of the park’s master plan and as Mayor, Darwin Hindman was a key proponent of the 2000 Park Sales Tax ballot issue that enabled the purchase and development of the park. Darwin was elected as Mayor of Columbia in 1995 and served until April 2010, after choosing not to seek a sixth term. The Discovery Garden is intended to honor Darwin and his wife Axie who are well-known for their enthusiastic support of parks, trails and the outdoors. The Hindmans continue to advocate for healthy and active lifestyles, staying active themselves on Columbia’s trails and in the community.
Park planning staff has conducted several meetings with the fund raising committee showing the detailed plans of the project. Additionally, the plans were distributed at a ground breaking ceremony on November 6, 2010. Staff believes that the attached plan represents a consensus of users, neighbors, and City staff. Construction is expected to begin this winter as weather allows with an estimated completed date spring 2012. Grading will be done by contract labor with park staff completing the rest of the project.

The Department also received a $2,500 donation from the Columbia Garden Club for the construction of a one-table shelter located near the Discovery Garden. An appropriation of the donated funds to the Stephens capital project is requested at this time to reimburse expenditure for shelter installation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**
The $78,887.17 in donations for Stephens Lake Park will be appropriated to the capital project to facilitate the completion of the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden development.

The $2,500 in donations for Stephens Lake Park will be appropriated to the capital project to reimburse expenditure for the shelter purchase and installation.

The annual operating expenses for the Discovery Garden will be in the range of $15,000-$30,000 per year including staff labor. It is likely that the garden will be under construction for most of 2011 so the department will be able to evaluate detailed operating costs based on the actual construction for the FY-12 budget. Some of the donated funds will be set aside to provide a source of funds for maintenance related efforts specifically, the replacements and additional plants and other materials. The $15,000-$30,000 estimate is based on all work being done by the horticulture staff and it is likely that it will be less due to planned partnerships with various volunteer groups and individuals.

**VISION IMPACT:**
The proposal to develop a discovery garden addresses vision goal 12.1 which recommends a variety of attractive, well maintained parks throughout Columbia which provide residents access to a full range of outdoor programs and activities.

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**
If the Council concurs that the project should proceed, the resolution calling for the public hearing should be approved, and following the public hearing, the ordinance appropriating the funds and authorizing the construction phase of the project to proceed should be adopted.