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Tibbitts ballpark a finalist in national grant contestBy **ANDREW WIND**, andrew.wind@wfcourier.com

WATERLOO --- A ballpark complex badly in need of renovation has made it to the finals of a national competition for a \$15,000 grant.

The Tibbitts Park complex on West Donald Street is among 100 finalists vying for 30 of the grants in the Kellogg's Frosted Flakes "Plant a Seed" promotion. The complex recently became the latest renovation project of Waterloo Leisure Services and the Build Our Ballpark organization. Boosters are asking area residents to go online and support the effort with daily votes to help them win the grant.

More than 15,000 online votes were cast to put the Waterloo ballpark into the finals among thousands of nominated facilities across the nation. During the entire month of May, one vote per day per person is allowed to support the Tibbitts project. All votes must be cast online at www.frostedflakes.com under the Tibbitts complex link.

"The Tibbitts complex renovation project will truly fill a recreational void in Waterloo," Bob Hellman Sr., executive director of Build Our Ballpark, said in a news release. "The community is drastically short of quality fields to effectively schedule youth baseball and softball."

Total votes for a specific field in the contest count for half of the final selection criteria. A sponsoring panel judges the other portion of the criteria, including feasibility of field makeover; location and age of the field; how many events take place on the field; and what teams use the field. Contest winners will be announced in June.

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