(INSERT CITY COUNCILLOR NAME)

City Hall
Council Building
510 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and as a constituent in your ward and a member of Athletics Manitoba, I am writing to you in regard to the currently tabled City of Winnipeg Draft Parks Strategy, specifically the current classification of Track and Field facilities as a Specialty Amenity.

**I think it is important that Track and Field facilities be upgraded to a Secondary Amenity.**

The sport of Athletics (Track and Field, Cross Country and Road Running) has been an important part of my life for \_\_\_ years and I believe that having well maintained community Track and Field spaces encourages active living, physical literacy and recreational participation at all ages.

Track and Field facilities do NOT only cater to a specialized user group as implied by their current classification as a specialty amenity. They quite literally provide a flat, accessible surface for all levels of participation.

Classifying Track and Field facilities as Specialty Amenity along with Speed Skating ovals, Archery ranges, and Ice Climbing towers, implies that a track is only of interest to a very niche group, and that an extremely high level of technical expertise is required in order to safely use the space.

**This is simply untrue**.

Well maintained community spaces for running and wheeling are integral for encouraging participation at any level, and it is important to understand that Athletics is a foundational sport. This means that not only does it provide meaningful development opportunities in its own right, but it also provides key motor development that is needed for ALL sports.

Running, Jumping, Throwing and Wheeling (for persons in wheelchairs) are integral skills that help you move efficiently in sport and in life and are recognized as KEY components to developing Physical Literacy.

Currently there are several tracks owned by the City. There are also many provided through schools, or through partnerships with other organizations. This directly meets the definition of a Secondary Amenity as outlined in the Parks Strategy.

As noted above, I think it is important that Tracks are moved up to Secondary Amenities, alongside Tennis and Basketball courts, Baseball/Softball diamonds and Outdoor skating rinks.

Track and Field facilities (whether they are asphalt, or rubberized) provide an INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE and EQUITABLE recreation opportunity for all. The continued maintenance of existing Track and Field facilities would support the City’s goals of active living and physical literacy development, and it would demonstrate a strong commitment to Inclusion, Equity and Access.

I have completed the Parks Survey and I sincerely hope you will help to amplify these concerns during the review process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,