Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
Sharon Lynch		
Kevin Sievers		
William Dodd		
Lisa Audiffred		

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
Cheryl McGrath		[redacted]
Jan VanDerVennet		[redacted]
James Nix		[redacted]

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email/ Address / phone
EMMA SCHMIDT		[redacted]
Jordan French		[redacted]
Rin Chiang		[redacted]
Suki Steinhauser		[redacted]

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
Claire LeGrow	[redacted]	[redacted]
Haolun Xu	[redacted]	[redacted]
Meghan-Grace Slocombe	[redacted]	[redacted]

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
SarahJenkins	[redacted]	[redacted]

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
Ali Baucom		[redacted]

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
Ron Moss		[redacted]

Letter to the City of Austin Environmental Commission

Re: COA and UT Interlocal Agreement Concerning Brackenridge Field Lab

October 25, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

We the undersigned citizens of Austin deeply appreciate your decision to review the COA/UT Agreement and make recommendations to the City Council for improvements. We volunteer in ongoing projects and conduct field surveys at the Brackenridge Field Lab (BFL). The BFL is primarily used for conducting research by science majors and graduate students at UT, and as naturalists and community scientists, we also realize the tremendous value of this tract of eighty some acres.

We are gravely concerned that the proposed Interlocal Agreement does not provide any indication that BFL will be preserved. Not maintaining the Field Lab in its entirety would be a terrible loss for the University and for the citizens of Austin. BFL encompasses over a dozen distinct ecological habitats and has a complex history of use, making it an ideal location for diverse research. There are over 18,000 square feet of lab facilities and 9 greenhouses to support research. The location enables students and faculty to easily access plots, being on the bus line and bike-able from campus. This cannot be replaced.

In addition to the benefits to the UT community, and the volunteering opportunities it offers Austin residents, BFL provides a rare swath of green space. It enhances our environment by cooling temperatures and cleaning the air. This is no small matter, given that Austin has the 23rd worst particle air pollution in the US, according to the American Lung Association. We desperately need more green spaces, and to sacrifice BFL to development would be a tragedy.

As Austin grows and develops, wonderful spaces for people are continuously created or improved adjacent to Lady Bird Lake. There are miles of hike and bike trails, hotels and office buildings within a few minutes' walk to the late, corporations headquartered and folks now living in condos and apartments just spitting distance to our lake. The new Waller Creek amenities are lovely as well. So much has been done to develop the lake for the benefit of human residents and visitors, and for substantial profit for some. BFL stands alone as a space entirely dedicated to the natural native flora and fauna of our unique ecosystem. Once gone, it can never be replaced.

Sincerely,

Printed Name	Signature	email / Address / phone
Christine Kramer		[redacted]