

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Claire Powell, City Manager

**FROM:** Stacie Anaya, Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** December 1, 2025

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of the Green Centerpiece Master Strategy.**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Green Centerpiece Master Strategy (GCMS) was originally adopted by the Lewisville City Council in July 2016 to guide the management and enhancement of the large natural floodplain area below the Lewisville Lake Dam and along the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. This strategy established the partnership framework between the City of Lewisville, the University of North Texas (UNT), the Lewisville Independent School District (LISD), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the collaborative operation and management of the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA).

Subsequent updates were approved in 2017 and 2022 to reflect evolving partner priorities, action item progress, and community needs. Each update reaffirmed the City's leadership role in ecological restoration, outdoor recreation, and environmental education—key tenets of the Lewisville 2025 Big Move #1: The Green Centerpiece.

The 2025 update was developed collaboratively by representatives from all partner organizations and the Friends of LLELA (FOLLELA). The effort reflects progress made since 2022, recognizes new leadership transitions across partner agencies, incorporates current conditions, and integrates emerging goals for sustainable growth, access, and conservation. City Council was presented with a workshop briefing on October 20, 2025, covering the current status and updates to the strategy.

### **ANALYSIS**

The 2025 update to the GCMS builds on the momentum established in the previous version while addressing newly identified opportunities and challenges. The document has been comprehensively revised to include an updated vision statement, refreshed partner descriptions, revised guiding principles, detailed status updates for all action items, and clear alignment with the City's adopted Healthy Infrastructure Plan.

Updated Vision Statement

*The Green Centerpiece is a central feature of Lewisville's identity, an innovative leader of Texas native habitat and open space management, and a destination for recreation, education, research, and restoration for Lewisville, the North Texas region, and the world.*

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This statement underscores the City's commitment to elevating the Green Centerpiece as a regional model for innovative ecological stewardship and a commitment to being a leader within the State of Texas.

### Key Revisions and Highlights

**Expanded Integration with City Plans:** The updated GCMS connects directly to Lewisville's Healthy Infrastructure Plan and Extending the Green initiative, which includes the urban forest and pollinator prairie program, ensuring consistency with current goals.

**Nature Center Progress:** The City's revised lease with USACE allows for the future Nature Center on Kealy Avenue, which will offer improved access, visibility, and operational efficiency. This marks a major milestone in advancing a central vision element of the Green Centerpiece.

**Updated Action Items:** Each of the 33 action items has been reviewed and updated to reflect implementation status, new timelines, and lead entities. Several of the items, such as the USACE Lease Renewal (completed 2023), Healthy Infrastructure Plan (adopted 2023), Lake Park Master Plan (approved 2024), and Residential Native Planting Certification Program (completed through the Roots for Wings initiative), demonstrate measurable progress.

**Emphasis on Inclusion and Access:** Inclusion principles have been further embedded into all relevant action items to ensure equitable access to outdoor spaces and nature-based programming.

**Enhanced Partner Collaboration:** The document includes updated status reports and commitments from all partners, including formalized volunteer coordination procedures, integrated event calendars, and shared program evaluation metrics.

The GCMS continues to serve as the guiding framework for coordinated investment, programming, and stewardship throughout the Green Centerpiece and its extended network of natural assets.

Action items to be led by the City of Lewisville include:

- Green Centerpiece Marketing Plan

- Green Centerpiece Activities & Events
- Environmentally-Inspired Public Art
- Residential Native Planting Certification Program
- Participant Evaluations
- Healthy Infrastructure Plan Implementation

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- City of Lewisville Sustainability Plan
- LLELA Interpretative Plan Implementation
- Facilities Maintenance Program
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- Green Centerpiece and Extending the Green Maintenance Program
- Capital Investment in Public Infrastructure within the Green Centerpiece
- Land Acquisition and Development in the Green Centerpiece and Extended Areas
- Landfill Redevelopment.

A copy of the draft GCMS is attached. Both LISD and UNT have presented the updates through their respective governing processes for adoption before the end of 2025.

### **CITY STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council approve the Green Centerpiece Master Strategy as set forth in the caption above.