

# **Land and Water Conservation Fund Swan Lake Nature Study Area Acquisition & Development**

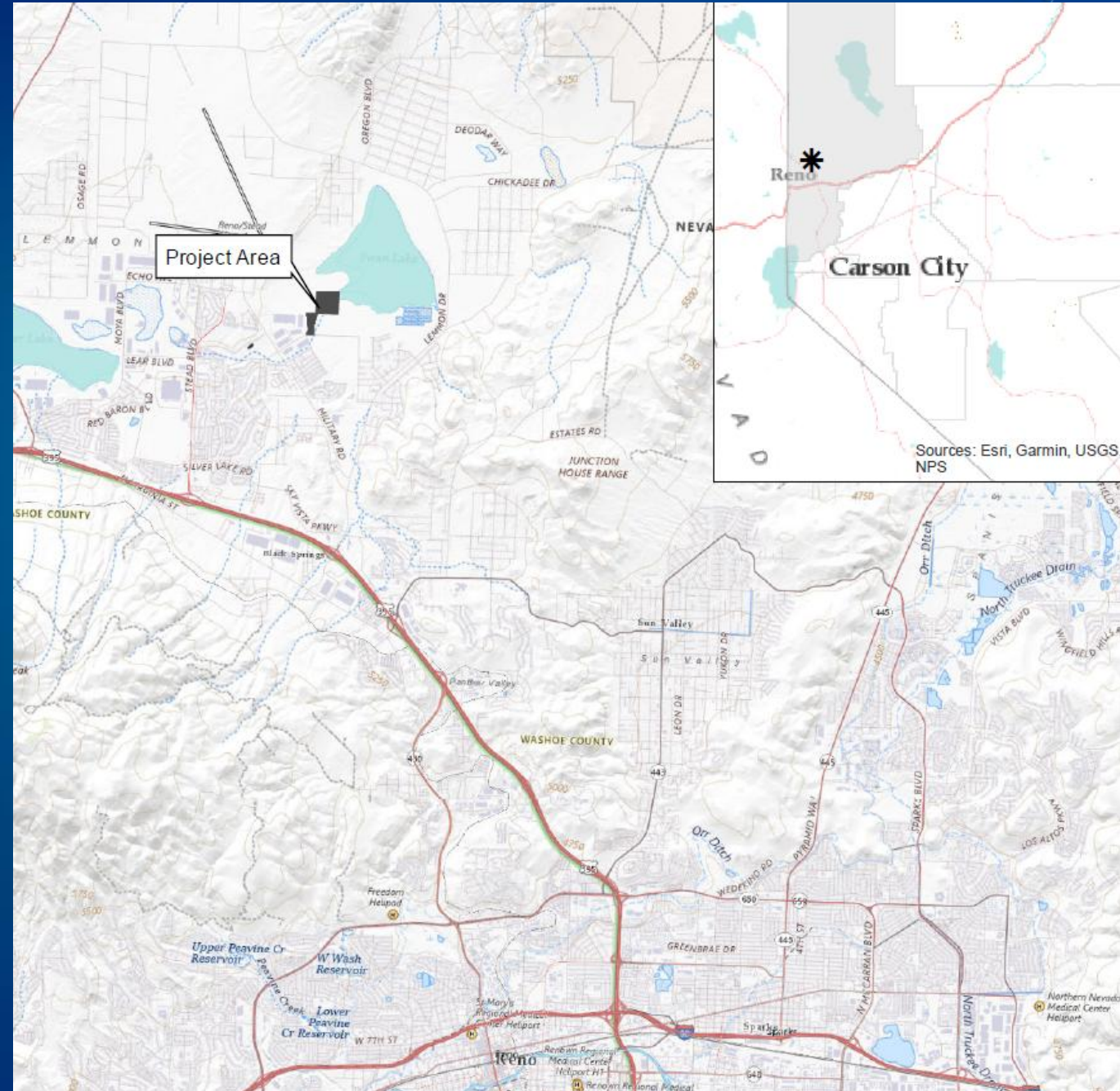


Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

September 24, 2025

# Project Location

- Swan Lake Nature Study Area located in Lemmon Valley on Lear Blvd.



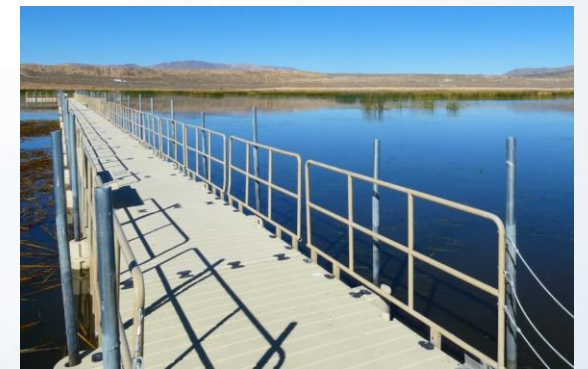
# Swan Lake Nature Study Area



- Designated “Nevada Important Bird Area” by Lahontan Audubon Society in 1999.
- Over 150 bird species recorded in the area.
- Namesake is the Tundra Swan (overwinters Nov – March)
- Popular birding area (open to the public year-round).



- Outdoor Classroom
- Floating Dock





# Swan Lake Nature Study Area – Partners



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for partners managing Swan Lake [1999 and 2001]

## Swan Lake Working Group:

- Lahontan Audubon Society
- Nevada Land Trust
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- City of Reno
- Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)
- Nevada National Guard
- Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space



# Swan Lake Nature Study Area – Master Plan



## **Master Plan adopted in 1997 (updated in 2000 and 2012):**

### Goals:

- Enhance Wildlife Habitat
- Protect Water Quality
- Collaborative Partnerships
- Protect Open Space
- Provide Recreation Opportunities
- Foster Community Support
- Provide Community Education

### Priority Actions:

- Acquire Adjacent Parcel
- Restore Horse Creek





# Project Scope of Work



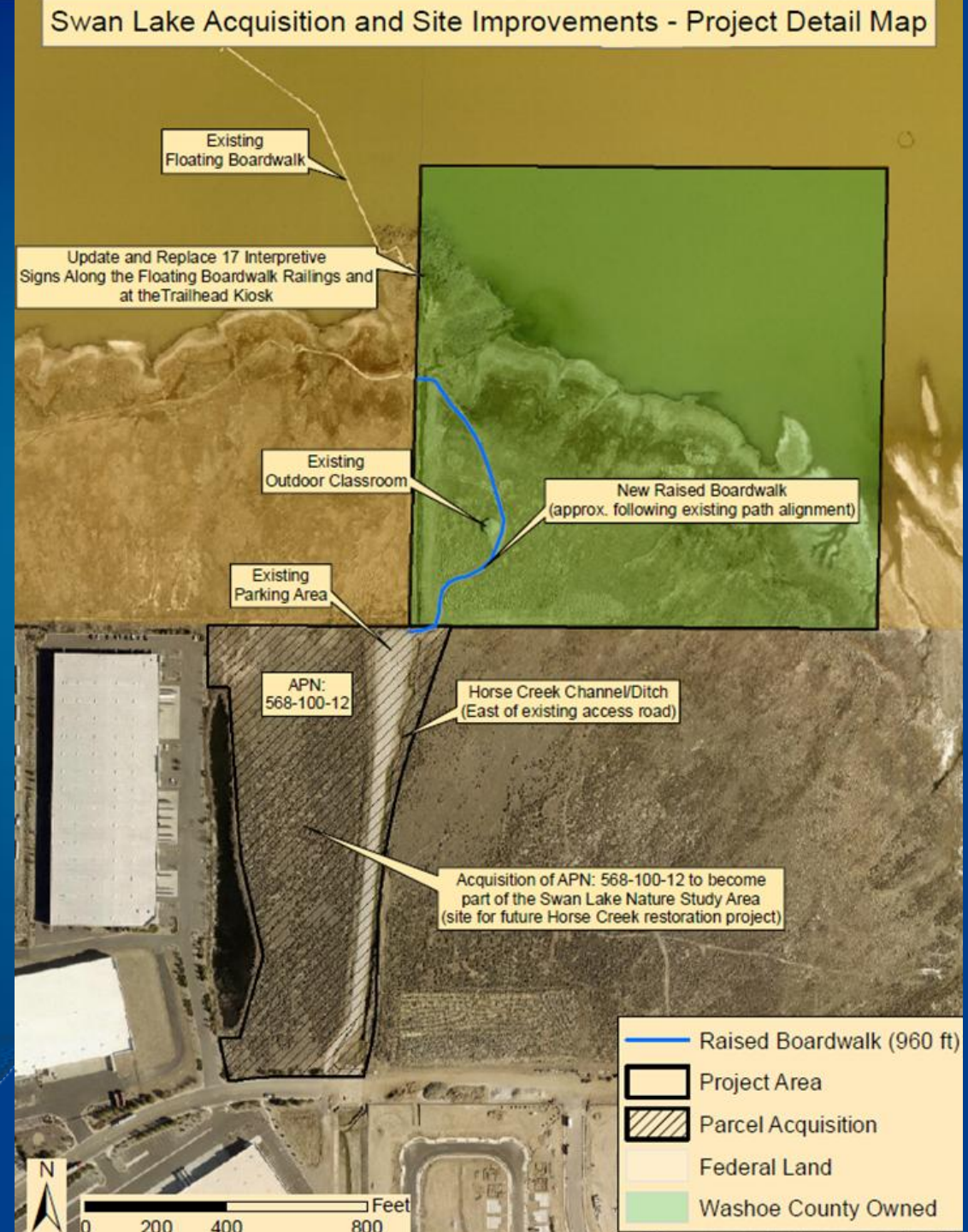
## Site management challenges:

- Fluctuating water levels and flooding resulting in damaged infrastructure and loss of access to the outdoor classroom.
- Erosion of Horse Creek channel and main access road.
- Trash and sediment deposition (ditch clearing)
- Noxious weeds.



# Project Scope of Work

- Parcel acquisition (13.325-acres)
  - Bargain sale negotiated by Nevada Land Trust
- Construct raised boardwalk
- Replace 17 interpretive signs
- Design and permitting for Horse Creek restoration/flood mitigation





# Project Scope of Work



## Project Benefits:

- Improve ecological health and habitat diversity.
- Reduce erosion.
- Protect existing infrastructure.
- Provide year-round access to the outdoor classroom.
- Accessibility improvements including interpretive signage.
- Reduction in long-term maintenance needs.





# Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant



- Awarded \$1,106,000 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program
- 50% Match requirement (\$6,000 staff time; \$1,100,000 property value donation).
- Appraised property value (\$3,830,000); Purchase price (\$500,000); Donated value to Washoe County (\$3,330,000)
- Grant funds accepted by the BCC on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# Questions?

