

Economic Development Strategy South Weber, Utah

Economic development goals and objectives, specifically related to the attraction of retail, were at the heart of the assignment for Strategy 5 in South Weber. We prepared a comprehensive strategy designed to maximize scarce land resources, while capitalizing on niche markets including outdoor recreation. South Weber is located approximately 40 miles north of Salt Lake City and is oriented toward several National and State Parks, famous ski resorts, and a wealth natural beauty.

A key part of the Economic Development Strategy came to focus on the adaptive reuse of two extensive gravel pit quarries that dominate the City. While these pits are the primary economic drivers for the City, they also create environmental problems including dust and noise generation. Strategy 5 acted upon the community's desire for change by leveraging the state of Utah's water resource concerns, and the finding that an important aquifer running underneath the gravel pits was in serious decline.

A sub-strategy for converting the gravel pits into a combination of an aquifer recharge system (ARS) and reservoir lake system is being implemented. Not only will the change benefit the physical environment of South Weber, it will have a significant impact on economic development potential. In addition, important land bays will be preserved for commercial development that otherwise would have been converted to gravel.



South Weber City could host beautiful water amenities such as Bear Lake pictured here, instead of open pit gravel operations. The economic impact on the future of the City will be significant