

Plans advance for Durbin Park hospital in northern St. Johns County



By Sheldon Gardner
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St. Johns County commissioners on Tuesday unanimously approved sending a Comprehensive Plan amendment for Durbin Park to review by state and regional agencies and local governments. The changes include allowing hospital uses.

After the review, changes to the development will go to the Planning and Zoning Agency for review and back to the Commission for approval.

The changes would allow Flagler Health+ to build a medical village at the site with a hospital, outpatient surgical services, cancer care, a family practice, women's care, pediatrics, urgent care, imaging and laboratory services, and space for healthy lifestyle programs, arts and community engagement, according to a 2019 announcement from Flagler Health+.

Jason Barrett, Flagler Health+ president and CEO, said the organization plans to start building the health village this fall and have it open by fall 2021.

The hospital, which is expected to have 80 beds to start with, should be open by 2023, he said. But it could go up to 150 beds.

“In that part of the county, there is significant growth,” Barrett said.

Flagler Health+ announced in 2019 that it had entered into an agreement to buy 40 acres from GATE Lands in the Durbin Park development.

The entire 1,700-acre Durbin Park property is being co-developed by the Gate Petroleum Company and the Gatlin Development Company. The first phase — located on the west side of the new I-95 interchange between State Road 9B and Race Track Road — is entirely commercial and nearly 100 percent pre-leased.

Plans for Phase II call for more than 2,000 residential units, 350 hotel rooms and more than 2 million square feet of commercial space, including office and more retail.

Cinemark Durbin Park, a 12-screen multiplex within the larger Durbin Park retail center, opened this month.