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Hospital weighs Liberty Twp. site

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Children's firming up details for its 12th satellite

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP — One of this township's top development sites could become a pediatric regional medical campus by the end of 2007.

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center has a contract to purchase about 65 acres northwest of Interstate 75 and Ohio 129, recently renamed the Butler County Veterans Highway. And even though the deal isn't final,

the Butler County Planning Commission plans Tuesday to consider a request to rezone the land to allow medical development.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

If the still-preliminary plans are carried out, the site would become Cincinnati Children's 12th satellite medical campus.

The exact services to be provided have not been set, said hospital

spokesman Jim Feuer.

Services range widely at the hospital's other satellite locations. Some are basic medical offices where families can seek urgent care and visit various pediatric specialists. Some offer lab services, outpatient therapy services and high-tech medical imaging.

The hospital's biggest satellite, in Mason, offers a wide range of services including outpatient sur-

gery. Thousands of families have taken children there for ear tubes and other common treatments.

This is the second large medical campus project to be announced in the past week.

Friday, Good Samaritan Hospital agreed to buy more than 30 acres in Hamilton County's Green Township.

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Site: Retail area could add Children's Hospital satellite

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Good Samaritan Hospital plans a medical campus with buildings totaling at least 150,000 square feet. Construction there could start by this summer and be completed by November 2006.

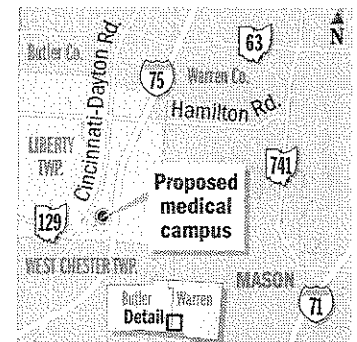
The Liberty Township site is owned by Fox 75 LLC and is zoned for light industrial use.

It remains unclear whether Cincinnati Children's would use all 65 acres for medical services. That kind of land gives the medical center the option to build almost any kind of site, even a full-scale hospital. However, no inpatient services are offered at the other 11 sites and none is proposed for Liberty Township, Feuer said.

"This would be one of the largest commercial developments in Liberty Township," said Jon West, Liberty Township's director of planning and zoning.

A Kroger store and other retail uses are being considered for 40 acres adjacent to the potential Cincinnati Children's campus, West said.

For some time, the Liberty Township site has been envisioned as a potential business park. A medical campus would fit



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"I think this is a positive development," said Christine Matacic, Liberty Township trustee. "Once it's completed it will be a regional type of facility. It will attract people from all over."

The rezoning request for the land was filed by Pedco E&A Services Inc., a design firm that has been working with the hospital. The hospital plans to spend up to six weeks working on details before the land purchase will be official.

More details will emerge in weeks to come. After the county zoning commission considers the plan, the township zoning board is scheduled to discuss the project April 5, West said. Township trustees expect to discuss it April 18.