

LOCAL

Grocery-anchored development proposed for Prospect along River Road. Could it be Publix?



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Changes could be coming to the [Prospect Point Shopping Center](#).

A nearly 56,000-square-foot grocery store is proposed for the east Louisville retail hub at the corner of U.S. Highway 42 and River Road.

The development would include the grocery and adjacent retail storefronts totaling about 20,000 square feet, similar to the existing layout, according to a development plan filed in early December with Louisville's Metro's Office of Planning.

An existing nearby bank, restaurant, day care and medical office would remain, a site plan shows.

[Brownsboro Hardware & Paint](#), [The Blackstone Grille](#) and [Evergreen Liquors](#) are among the businesses currently located on the site of the proposed development, 9505 U.S. Highway 42.

The development plan doesn't name the grocer that intends to open in Prospect, though public records suggest Florida-based [Publix](#) intends to operate at the site.

A zoning verification request from earlier this year lists Publix as the intended buyer of the east end property.

A Publix spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Earlier this year, the spokesperson said there was nothing to share about plans for the location, noting that Publix doesn't confirm or announce new locations until leases are signed or land is purchased.

North Carolina-based Harris Development Partners is re-developing the site, which is currently owned by longtime local owner Warben Inc., deed records show.

The developer intends to add sidewalks along River Road to help with pedestrian access to the site.

"The applicant believes that that proposed redevelopment of Prospect Point will enhance this longstanding commercial center for the benefit of the surrounding community," wrote Louisville attorney Jon Salomon on behalf of the developer.

When reached by The Courier Journal, Salomon declined to comment on the development timeline and grocery operator.

The proposed new grocery would have very close by competition. A [Kroger](#) at 5929 Timber Ridge Drive is located half a mile away.

Florida-based Publix entered the Louisville market earlier this year with its first Kentucky store at 2500 Terra Crossing Blvd. in eastern Jefferson County.

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