

MERCYROCKFORD Health System

Rockford Health System

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Mercy Health System

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MercyRockford Health System: One Hospital on Two Campuses Background Information: Why a Second Campus

ROCKFORD, IL., August 13, 2015 – MercyRockford Health System considered a number of options in developing its facilities plans for the future. The plans, announced at a news conference today, maintain a robust medical campus at the current N. Rockton Avenue location and centralize intensive care services on a second campus at the intersection of E. Riverside Boulevard and the I-90 interstate highway. The plans will bring significant patient care and economic benefits to the Rockford community and the surrounding region.

Community and regional health care needs, clinical program growth, and opportunities for economic development for the Rockford region were key factors in designing the plans. Offering two locations increases regional accessibility and supports strong economic development and job growth, creating a powerful regional health system to drive health care to the Rockford area. This plan will greatly enhance MercyRockford's ability to serve patients from throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

The option of utilizing only the current N. Rockton Avenue campus to meet all the identified needs was reviewed but not found to be feasible. The core of the N. Rockton Avenue campus was built in 1954 with many additions over time. Engineering and facilities studies showed that attempting to retrofit the current Rockford Memorial Hospital for intensive care and specialty inpatient facilities would cost more than the plans to add a second campus; could not achieve the desired outcome of building to current design, efficiency and technology standards; and could not provide for the growth of clinical programs. Additionally, MercyRockford could not continue to provide safe, convenient and effective care during a complete renovation of the current buildings.

There is not enough room on the N. Rockton Avenue campus to build a new hospital. MercyRockford Health System owns 263 acres at the E. Riverside location.

This plan provides two access points for patient care, enhancing health care services and creating economic development. The plan also supports community organizations that will be able to repurpose space on the N. Rockton Avenue campus, providing additional opportunities for program development and job growth.