

Former Albertsons could become Wal-Mart Market

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Wal-Mart plans to convert a former Albertsons store on South Orange Avenue.

A former Albertsons store more than three decades old could get a new life as a smaller Wal-Mart concept.

Compton Properties LLLP, a related entity to Orlando-based developer [Pineloch Management Corp.](#), is close to finalizing a lease for a proposed 49,000-square-foot Wal-Mart Market at the Market at Southside shopping center on East Michigan Street and South Orange Avenue. The developer already has city of Orlando approval to raze the existing 60,000-square-foot shuttered grocery store and rebuild smaller retail/restaurant space and three commercial outparcels.

Bentonville, Ark.-based [Wal-Mart Stores Inc.](#) (NYSE: WMT) next will work on a feasibility study and site engineering, said **Mary Hurley**, Pineloch Management's leasing director. Wal-Mart has proposed minor changes to the approved master plan, but hasn't submitted any plans yet, said city spokeswoman Cassandra Lafser.

Once the retailer submits those plans, it will bid out the construction project by sometime next year and the store would open in spring 2013, said Wal-Mart spokeswoman **Michelle Belaire**. The firm typically hires 80-100 workers for each Market store and full-time pay in Florida averages \$12.31 per hour.

Wal-Mart has been growing its smaller concepts nationwide. The retail giant in May inked deals to turn two former Dallas-area Albertsons stores into Wal-Mart Market stores, said sister publication Dallas Business Journal. The firm also in June was hunting for 17 Portland-area sites to develop into Wal-Mart Markets, said sister paper Portland Business Journal.

The Orlando area has six Wal-Mart Market locations.