

Award-winning Streamsong Resort files construction plans for Golf Course No. 5

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Streamsong Golf Resort and Spa owners have transformed old phosphate mines near Lakeland into an elite retreat. Beyond a trio of nationally ranked golf courses, it features a spa, hotel rooms and swimming pools.



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Streamsong Resort, one of Central Florida's premier golf destinations, is prepping for another major expansion.

Streamsong's owners, Kemper Sports through an LLC named Stillwater Preserve Development, has applied to the Southwest Florida Water Management District for permits to build Golf Course No. 5 just a year after debuting its fourth course.

In the SWFWMD filing on Nov. 1, the company said the project will be an 18-hole golf course with cart paths on 345 acres adjacent to the resort's existing Black Course and near the Red Course. The company owns 690+ acres. The new course would begin and end just steps from the resort's Black clubhouse, and the plans include several foot bridges over existing wetlands and surface water.

The resort is located on Fort Green Road in Bowling Green, a tiny community in Polk County about an hour and a half southwest of Orlando.

The Lakeland location of Engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates is listed as the engineer and consultant on the plans.

Streamsong currently offers the Black, Red, and Blue courses, three traditional courses with holes of varying lengths and pars mostly for stroke play. All three courses have won awards from a variety of golf magazines. Earlier this year, Golfweek ranked Streamsong Red as the 16th, Streamsong Blue as the 20th, and Streamsong Black as the 23rd best resort golf courses in the United States.

The recently opened fourth course, The Chain is configured specifically for match play format instead of stroke play on 19 holes. Instead of traditional tee markers, there are teeing areas. The winner of each hole gets to decide the tee location for the following hole. Yardage varies depending on the teeing area.

Golfweek ranked The Chain as the 18th best public-access short, par-3 and non-traditional course in the nation.

Coore and Crenshaw Design created The Chain course and the Red Course. Tom Doak designed the Blue Course and Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner designed the Black one. No word who will design the proposed Course No. 5.

The resort also has The Streamsong Lodge and Streamsong Red and Blue Clubhouse with 228 guest rooms and suites. There are several bars and restaurants, as well as a fitness center and lakefront pool for a full resort experience. The plans submitted to SWFWMD did not mention any additional structures.

Streamsong Resort sits on 7,000 acres of land which the Mosaic Company used to own and mine for phosphate. Kemper Sports, which has managed the golf courses since the resort's opening in 2012, bought the property in January 2023 for \$160 million.

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