STERLING, Mass. — Bucking the trend of tying golf course building to abutting house lots, backers of Sterling Country Club say the $8 million project will be "strictly golf, a walk in the woods."

The 6,800-yard par 71 course, within an hour's drive of Boston, is scheduled to open in June. The course will be semi-private and, according to president and general manager Richard H. Lowe of Sudbury, 170 memberships at $7,500 each have been sold.

Sterling is located halfway between Worcester and Leominster, off Route 190. Walter Lanka Jr. of Sudbury, Lowe's public partner in the project, is co-owner of Massow Acres, a 36-hole public course in Stow. Other principals are Bernard Cammarata, president and chief executive officer of TJX Companies, Inc., a specialty apparel retailer, and Charles Gordon, president and CEO of Burns of Boston, a producer and distributor of photo frames and albums.

Cammarata, Lanka and Lowe are members of Nashawtuc Country Club in Concord, Gordon a member at Belmont Country Club. This quartet has a design team that includes Jim Ferree, a Senior PGA Tour player, golf course owner and consultant, who will be the professional consultant. Dr. Michael Hurdzan, past president of the American Society of Golf Architects, is the designer.

S. Vic Jones of Dallas, Texas, will design the clubhouse. He has been involved in more than 400 club projects and was vice president and director of architecture for Club Corporation of America.

The course will feature five sets of tees. Greens will average 1,000 square feet and will be of Penncross turf.

The goal is to use the 250-acre site to build an outstanding New England-style course, working with the natural terrain and wetlands. Parallel fairways will be avoided, as will blind shots, steep clinics and trick shots.

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**CIRCLE #138**

**Fourth city course planned in Minnesota**

ROCHESTER, Minn. — The Rochester City Council will spend $360,000 for 200 acres that will become the city's fourth golf course on land in northeast Rochester. The land will be paid for over the next two years with tax funds. The site includes the former Hadley Valley School, which will be used as the clubhouse, a barn to be used for maintenance, and a farm.

Construction costs of the $2.1 million project, due for completion in 1996 or 1997, will be paid through surpluses in the golf operating budget. The land acquisition is being financed primarily with tax money.

The council approved the request, 61-21-2.