N.H. gravel company plans complete golf facility near former quarry sites

HOOKSETT, N.H. — Hooksett, the home of Manchester Sand Gravel & Cement Co., aspires to be known for the complete golf product rather than just the sand trap of New Hampshire. And Manchester Sand officials are seeking product diversity. What better use than to construct a driving range, practice course and pro shop on 70 acres of wetlands off Route 3? The company owns about 3,700 acres in Hooksett, many idle or working gravel pits.

The project would cost more than $1 million and take about three years to complete.

The location would be north of Hedd's Pond near the Hooksett-Allenstown line. The three-phase project would begin with a practice fairway or driving range that could open this summer. A clubhouse could be built by mid-1994, and an 18-hole putting course by 1995.

The facility is planned around wetlands. The Hooksett Conservation Commission has voted unanimous support for the project. If all went well, planners would then turn attention to a regulation 18-hole golf course.

Environmental student's report troubles city planners

BURLINGTON, N.J. — Lisa Paglione's proposal for an environmental and historical center on the 420-acre Burlington Island has run afoul of some city officials who prefer a golf course, marina and resort.

Paglione outlined her proposal last year in a thesis as a senior at Albright College in nearby Reading. She adds that the golf course idea would be damaging to the island, home to several rare and endangered plant and animal species. She also says space does not allow combining recreational and environmental uses.

Bruce Benedetti, the city's business administrator, said he believes a golf course could be the kind of low-impact development that could protect much of the island.

At the same time, it would provide an economic stimulus to the city, he added.