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NEWS Story

- Landlocked Country Braced for Surf Wave

- ZURICH, Switzerland (Reuters) - Surfing could come to Switzerland after a sports group said Monday it plans to build a wave machine on a river in Zurich, staid financial hub of the landlocked Alpine country.

'Wave riding is also possible far from the sea,' said the Stehende Welle (Standing Wave) organization.

A plastic dam on the bed of the Limmat River would pump out tailor-made waves, the group said, adding it hoped to complete the project in 2006 provided it found sponsorship.

'In Switzerland there are half a million snowboarders and every snowboarder is already halfway to being a surfer. A wave is the ideal substitute in summer,' it said.

'Even businessmen could have a surf,' spokesman Philipp Kempf added.