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Surfing in landlocked country?

Group wants to make Switzerland a surf capital. Never mind that it has no ocean.

August 23, 2004: 5:56 PM EDT

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.



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"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. ■

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