

# “SURF IS WHERE YOU FIND IT”

Gerry Lopez (“Mr. Pipeline” world champion surfer)

## Standing Wave Pool (Ward Road Ponds) September 26, 2019



## SCOPE/PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION

The Ward Road Ponds would be an ideal location for a “floating wave pool” or a “fixed wave pool” (in-ground or above ground) and would provide for a surfable stationary wave open to the public for beginners to intermediate to expert surfers.<sup>1</sup>

The location is also located in federal and local economic tax incentive zones as outlined in the map below. The Ward Road Ponds are in the lower left corner of the outlined area and will be a short walk from the Wheat Ridge RTD Station at the end of the G-Line.<sup>2</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> With the planned construction of the pedestrian bridge and path leading from the Ward RTD Station down to the two ponds located between Ward Road and Tabor Street, being right next to I-70, this would be an ideal location for a floating wave pool.

<sup>2</sup> Map is taken from the City of Wheat Ridge “Ward Transit Station and Opportunity Zone Prospectus” pdf



## COLORADO RIVER SURFING ASSOCIATION

Colorado River Surfing Association (CRSA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the growth of river surfing in the state of Colorado.

CRSA champions the building of river waves, promotes protecting the environment, and encourages the river surfing community through fostering good stewardship, and promoting safety of the river environment and the river surfing community.



Eric Halborg CRSA Media & Events Director at the CRSA booth, Outdoor Show (Jan 2020)  
<http://coloradoriversurfing.org>

## SURFING STATIONARY WAVES

Colorado is fortunate to have a number of stationary waves in various rivers throughout the state that are actually surfable like an ocean wave except the waves are continuous and can be surfed non-stop. Some of these waves occur naturally while others are part of whitewater parks built to help restore once blighted and neglected parts of river ecosystems. Unfortunately these waves are limited to spring time run-off periods and are only surfed a few months out of the year.



Stationary wave “Sixx” at River Run Park (RRP) Englewood/Sheridan, Colorado- surfer Adam Tymn

Video of RRP “Benihana’s” wave <https://youtu.be/12-sQLhsufo>

## SURFING STATIONARY WAVES (continued)

The physics of these surfable stationary waves occur when fast moving water encounters slower moving water. In essence the fast moving water hits the slow body of water and a standing wave is formed, a never ending wave. These river waves have been surfed for decades with the first in Munich Germany starting in the early 1970's at a still surfed year round and famous wave named "Eisbach" (loosely translated as "Ice River").



Surfer's lined up to surf the famous Eisbach Wave (Munich) while tourists watch on.

Video of Eisbach <https://youtu.be/Pz2bdm2imcY>

## SURFING STATIONARY WAVES (continued)

Over the past decade a number of companies have been able to recreate stationary river waves but indoors in a pool about the half size of an olympic pool. The physics are the same but utilize pumps to create moving water and standing waves.



Indoor wave Moscow, Russia

Video of and indoor wave <https://youtu.be/Wok3kkzkvis>

## SURFING STATIONARY WAVES (continued)

Most recently one company has developed similar wave pool but instead of built in a swimming pool, it is floated in a lake or pond, hence the floating wave pool.



Photo of floating stationary wave pool in Germany

Videos of floating stationary wave pool <https://youtu.be/0-MSIRdMV3s> <https://youtu.be/JXWbmH2f8IU>

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR A FLOATING WAVE OR FIXED WAVE POOL (Ward Road Ponds)**

- Located in economic development incentive boundary such as the “Opportunity Zone” and “Jefferson County Enterprise Zone”, etc.
- Will be connected to RTD via the pedestrian path and bridge (essentially making it available to all of transit area including visitors/tourist flying into DIA)
- Location next to I-70 would be it’s own advertisement.
- Metro area is full of landlocked surfers, snowboarders, skiers, skateboarders, and thrill seekers who would love to surf a floating wave pool.
- Colorado is the center of the snowboard and ski recreation world. Visitors would potentially be able to surf a floating wave pool during warm winter sunny days (wetsuit technology allows for surfing in water at 32 degrees water temperature and below freezing air temperature).
- Outdoor industry will eventually return to Denver as the hub for the summer show and winter show.
- DIA is located in the center of the nation so the wave floating wave will likely become a destination trip during lower airfare summer months.

## **Justification for a Floating Wave (continued)**

- Floating wave pool would promote destratification of the pond and help with the natural turning over of the layers of water. The floating wave would oxygenate the water, help fight off algae blooms, and assist in fish habitat.
- Surfing is a healthy habit sport, especially surfing standing waves that are endless waves.
- Standing waves can be surfed by all levels from beginners to experts. Unlike ocean surfing, standing waves can be easily caught, jumped on, or pushed onto.
- Floating wave could be used for camps (youth to adult), private lessons, events, and national/international competitions.
- Wave pools have minimal construction costs compared to river restoration projects or large wave parks such as Kelly Salter's "Surf Ranch" beach breaking style wave pool. A standing wave pool would cost in the range of \$2million to build and could recoup the cost if a few short years with the right business mode. To put in perspective, a quality skateboard park cost about \$1million to build (not factoring in land purchase costs).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Upon Request)

Manufacturing data, specs, costs, potential business plans, etc. can be provided upon request.<sup>3</sup>

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David Riordon surfing a stationary river wave in Thornton, CO  
Video of Thornton Wave (CRSA clean-up adopt a spot)  
<https://youtu.be/pHkPIF0Z-7s>

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<sup>3</sup> No individual businesses or companies are promoted by Colorado River Surfing Association or CRSA officers/members.