

CITY OF APPLETON POLICY		TITLE: HOUDINI PLAZA – RENTAL AND FEE SCHEDULE
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I. Purpose

To provide a policy to authorize the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department to equitably administer rules and regulations, policies, fees and charges and manage the use of Houdini Plaza for private and/or community events. The Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department also recognizes Houdini Plaza provides quality of life uses for individuals, organizations and groups and bring certain benefits to the community, but has certain use limitations due to size, available facilities, site development and location.

II. Policy

This policy authorizes the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department to charge fees for the use of Houdini Plaza within the rate schedule established by the Parks and Recreation Committee and City Council. The Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department has also established guidelines for the preservation of the public’s health, safety, welfare, and to promote the responsible use of publicly owned property and facilities. To effectively manage, protect facilities, and promote wise use of urban spaces, this policy authorizes the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Director and/or designees to:

1. Cancel and/or relocate any reservation that potentially threatens the integrity of Houdini Plaza due to misrepresentation of information on the Facility Reservation Agreement, or if conditions of the facility or grounds would potentially create an unsafe situation.
2. Limit the availability of Houdini Plaza to perform routine and/or required maintenance and renovations to preserve the plaza integrity, including hard surfaces, turf, trees, vegetation, amenities, etc.
3. Deny any facility reservation application if the expected attendance would endanger public health and safety or compromise the condition of facilities.
4. Enforce Park rules, regulations, and policies.
5. Require insurance coverage with limits established by the City Risk Manager for all activities or events scheduled for Houdini Plaza.

III. Definitions

- **Houdini Plaza** – Urban space on the southeast corner of Appleton Street and College Avenue as identified in the City of Appleton’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- **Local Non-Profit Organization** – Non-profit organization located in the Fox Cities that offers activity and/or event to promote quality of life experiences for citizens of Appleton and surrounding communities.
- **National Non-Profit Organization** – National non-profit organization that offers activity and/or event to promote its objectives and focus.
- **For-Profit Organization** – For-profit organization that offers activity and/or event for the primary purpose of raising money for its operations/objectives/programs.
- **Private Event** – Exclusive use of the plaza for an event and/or activity by an organization, group or individual that requires some or all of Houdini Plaza to be closed to the public.
- **Exchange of Money** – The exchange of any money at an event or program that is held in Houdini Plaza specifically reserved for that event or program.
- **Facility Reservation Policies and Procedures** – These policies and procedures are stated on the back of the Facility Reservation Agreement that explain reservations, sales of concessions, cancellation/refund procedures, alcohol policies and damage policies.
- **Park Rules & Regulations** – Are adopted by the City Council and published by the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department. These rules and regulations are included with every Facility Reservation Agreement packet.
- **Processing Fee** – Fee charged to process a refund and/or cancellation request that is received before the reservation date.
- **Special Event** – An event or activity that meets the City of Appleton’s definition for a special event activity, is held in a city park and/or special area, and exceeds the normal and ordinary use of the park and/or special area.
- **Event Fee** – Fee charged for any rental of Houdini Plaza that is determined to be a special event.

IV. Discussion

This policy defines how Houdini Plaza shall be reserved by individuals, organizations and/or groups (herein “organizers”) for use of the facility. The policy shall also define the fee(s) charged to organizers for their reservation request.

V. Reservations:

1. All organizers reserving Houdini Plaza will be charged in accordance with the established rate schedule, including but not limited to: reservation fee, exchange of money permit, tent permit, tent inspection fee, late registration, and/or event fee for facility.
2. All reservations of Houdini Plaza shall be considered special events. The use of Houdini Plaza for a special event that is private must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee and Common Council. All other reservations that are open to the general public will be subject to review by the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Management Department or their designee.
3. The reservation of Houdini Plaza shall follow the procedures identified in the Special Events Policy and organizers will be required to pay the all the fees required under the

- Special Events Policy, including but not limited to a separate “Event Fee” of \$50.00 as listed in the Fee Schedule on the last page of this policy.
4. The reservation request for Houdini Plaza shall include the actual time needed for the activity or event, including the time for all set up, tear down, and clean up.
 5. All reservations for Houdini Plaza shall be considered for the entire day. Reservations for the same day by two different organizers are not permitted unless written confirmation is received from both organizers and the City of Appleton is not responsible for any additional service required to accommodate the multiple events.
 6. Houdini Plaza is available all year, however during the winter months (November through March) the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department reserves the right to limit access to the plaza and facilities and charge back to the organizations/groups costs to prepare the plaza for any activity or event. Preparations services during the winter months include but are not limited to snow removal, ice control, waste containers, etc.
 7. If an organizer performs set up or tear down of any equipment on any date not included on the reservation, the organizer will be charged for the full day in which setup or takedown occurs. In addition, if these actions interfere with another rental, the City reserves the right to have any set up removed at the organizer’s cost.
 8. Organizers that have reserved Houdini Plaza for an event or activity shall have thirty (30) days after the date of the special event to reserve Houdini Plaza for the same weekend and/or date for the following year. After thirty (30) days, the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department will make Houdini Plaza available to other interested parties.
 9. A special event license for Houdini Plaza will not be issued until all approvals have been received through the Special Events Permit process.
 10. All other reservations for Houdini Plaza are on a first-come, first-served basis and may be made no more than one (1) year in advance.
 11. The Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department reserves the right to require a security deposit for any reservation based on the type of event, number of participants, use of facility, etc. The amount of the security deposit will be based on factors listed earlier. The security deposit will be returned within 10-14 business days after the event if all conditions of the reservation request were met, including, but not limited to: facility clean-up, proper vacation of the facilities, removal of personal equipment/supplies/etc., and leaving the facility(s) in a clean and orderly condition.
 12. All applications for facility reservations should be made at least ninety (90) days in advance of the reservation date, depending on the size of the event and/or need for street closures. Please refer to the Special Event Policy for a more detailed breakdown of the minimum number of days before the event to apply for a license and the costs associated with your Special Event. No license will be granted less than ten days before the date of your event.
 13. This policy shall become effective for any events scheduled after December 31, 2023 and shall remain in effect until it is modified, changed, and/or repealed.

VI. Terms & Conditions of Use:

- The special event license holder must bring their copy of the approved reservation to show City personnel upon request. In all cases, special event license holders shall be given preference for the use of the space designated on the approved agreement.

- Vehicles are not allowed on any park surface at any time; this includes trucks, cars, Utility Task Vehicles (“UTVs”), golf carts, etc. Authorization may be given for unique circumstances, but must be approved in advance by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management or their designee.
- Organizers shall leave the facility in a clean and orderly condition. Groups are not permitted to remove any City equipment or supplies. The City will not be held financially or legally responsible for any injuries or damage that occurs as a result of the rental and reserves the right to pursue all legal remedies against the organizer and/or organization for the costs incurred by such injury and/or damage during the rented timeframe.
- No equipment that utilizes fuels or electrical power shall be allowed within the park. Authorization may be given for unique circumstances for the use of outdoor propane fire pits, but must be approved in advance by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management or their designee.

VII. Cancellation/Refunds:

- A full refund of the rental fee will be made if the reservation is cancelled more than 90 days in advance of the event. A full refund of the rental fee for a cancellation of Houdini Plaza less than 90 days in advance of the event will be made only if the facility is rented to another party for the date cancelled. Refunds are subject to a \$10.00 processing fee.
- A full refund of the rental fee will be made if the reservation is cancelled by the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management Department due to unsafe conditions, issues or concerns with plaza facilities, construction activities, etc. These refunds are not subject to the \$10.00 processing fee.

HOUDINI PLAZA

FEE SCHEDULE

<u>Organization/Group</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Local Non-Profit Organization	\$50.00 per day
National Non-Profit Organization	\$125.00 per day
For-Profit Organization	\$325.00 per day
Private Event	\$525.00 per day
<u>Other Services</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Exchange of Money Permit	\$25.00 per day \$100.00 per season
Tent Permit	\$15.00 per tent, per day
Fire Inspection (for tents)	\$25.00 per event
Late Reservation	\$10.00
Processing Fee	\$10.00
Event Fee	\$50.00 per event