



REPORT TO PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Appleton Public Arts Committee Meeting Date: July 24, 2019

Parks & Recreation Committee Date: July 29, 2019

Common Council Meeting Date: August 7, 2019

Item: Metamorphosis Sculpture

Case Manager: Jessica Titel

GENERAL INFORMATION

Owner/Applicant: City Of Appleton/Tom Flick - City of Appleton Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management

Address/Parcel: S. Lawe Street (Tax Id. #31-4-0277-03)

Applicant's Request: Applicant is requesting to place the Metamorphosis sculpture on recently acquired City property, near the future Lawe Street Trestle Trail.

BACKGROUND

The Metamorphosis sculpture was created by Richard C. Wolter and was displayed in Houdini Plaza from 1985 until 2010. It was removed because the base was deteriorating. The City has been storing the sculpture since then. The sculpture pays tribute to Houdini's famous trick in which he escaped from a chain-bound trunk.

PROJECT DETAILS

Brief description of project and location: The sculpture is proposed to be placed on a parcel of land that was recently purchased by the City for the construction of the future Lawe Street Trestle trail. The trail project will connect the trestle to the existing North Island Trail that runs along the river on the north side of Neenah Paper. There is also an existing plaque near the proposed sculpture location indicating that this is where Houdini almost drowned at the beginning of his fascination with escaping from water. This existing plaque will also be relocated to the east side of Lawe Street in conjunction with this project. The plaque will be placed along the river and will be ADA accessible. The Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management Department would like to request and recommend that Metamorphosis be reinstalled on the property that has recently been purchased by the City.

Reason for choosing the proposed location: The proposed location has been chosen because it is an opportunity to have more artwork along the City's river trails and pays homage to Houdini's connection to the river. There is also an existing plaque in this area indicating this is where Houdini almost drowned.

Metamorphosis

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Description of how the work is installed/anchored/attached: Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management will determine the best way to install/anchor the sculpture while working through the construction details.

Timeline and duration of installation: It is anticipated that Metamorphosis will be installed in May/June 2020 and will be a permanent installation.

Maintenance and Cost: The artwork will be maintained by the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management Department using annually approved tax levy funding.

Associated Signage: An existing plaque will be attached near the structure. Additional signage may be installed to further describe the sculpture, but no details are available at this point.

Appleton Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030: The City of Appleton *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030* illustrates the importance of the arts community to Appleton and encourages the expansion and promotion of placemaking and arts in the City. The proposed public art project is consistent with the following goals and objectives of the *Comprehensive Plan 2010-2030*.

Chapter 3 – Community Vision #12: Creative place making and public art enhance the public realm and contribute to a vibrant economy.

Goal 7 – Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

Appleton will continue to protect and enhance its environmental quality and important natural resources, preserve historic sites, and support cultural opportunities for community residents.



Chapter 14 – Downtown Plan

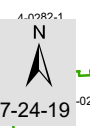
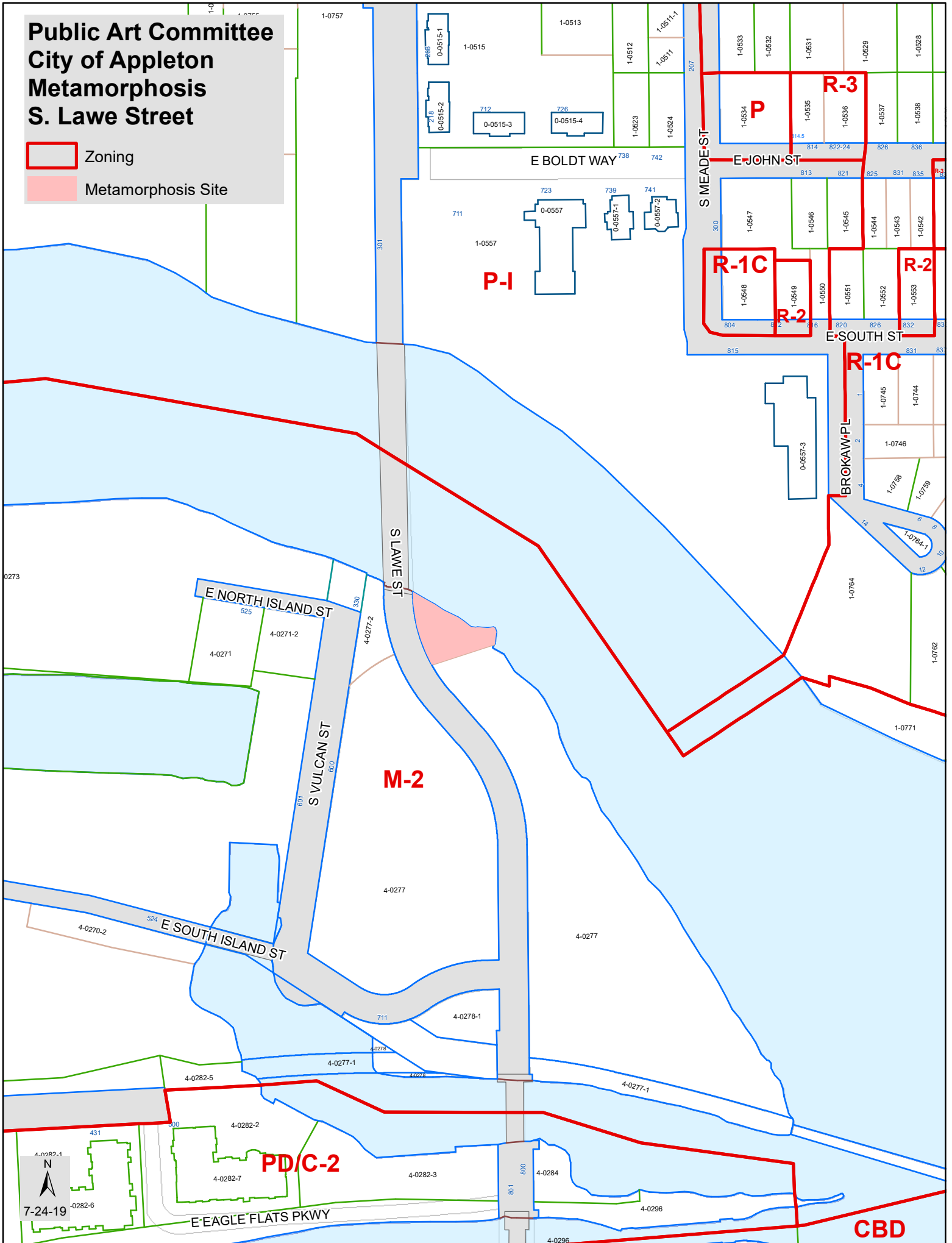
- *Initiative 1.1 Continue development of entry features on major routes into the downtown*
- *Initiative 1.4 Install sculpture, murals, and other art in public locations throughout the downtown*
- *Initiative 2.1 Maintain and strengthen the vitality of the arts and entertainment niche*
- *Initiative 2.6 Create more Fox River to Downtown tourism opportunities and connections*

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the guidelines outlined in the Art in Public Places Policy, Staff recommends that the proposed installation of the Metamorphosis sculpture on S. Lawe Street (Tax Id. #31-4-0277-03), as shown on the attached maps, **BE APPROVED**.

Public Art Committee City of Appleton Metamorphosis S. Lawe Street


-  Zoning
-  Metamorphosis Site



PD/C-2

CBD

**Public Art Committee
City of Appleton
Metamorphosis
S. Lawe Street**

 Metamorphosis Site

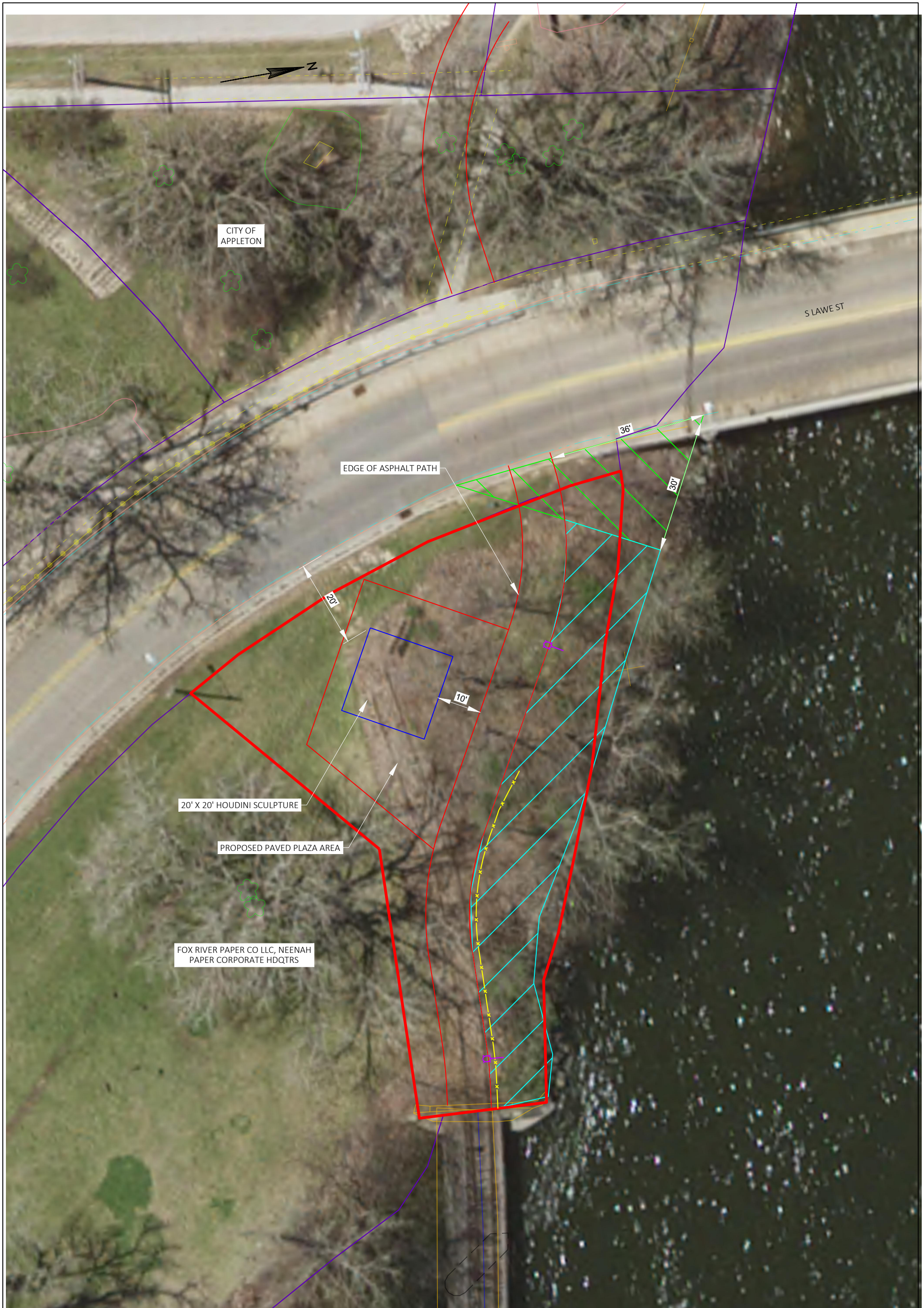




City of Appleton Lawe Street Trestle Trail Project Overview Map

SCALE, FEET 0 50 100





CITY OF APPLETON

S LAWE ST

EDGE OF ASPHALT PATH

20'

10'

36'

30'

20' X 20' HOUDINI SCULPTURE

PROPOSED PAVED PLAZA AREA

FOX RIVER PAPER CO LLC, NEENAH
PAPER CORPORATE HDQTRS



City of Appleton Lawe Street Trestle Trail West End

SCALE, FEET 0 10 20





Existing Houdini Plaque

