2023 Wonderland of Lights Audio Script

Segment 1: Introduction

Welcome to Potter Park Zoo's annual Wonderland of Lights! We're thrilled to have you with us for our spectacular holiday light show, and we're excited to take you on an audio tour to experience it all. Just a friendly reminder that the tour begins once you pass through the admission gate, and we want to ensure you don't miss a thing. All of our lights are LED, and if at any point the tour moves too quickly, feel free to pause and take it all in at your own pace.

Segment 2:

Once you enter the zoo, you'll find the gift shop on your left side. In front of the gift shop are two trees adorned with blue and white lights illuminating the trunks. On the right side, there are four remarkably tall trees with their trunks lit up in blue, and the tops decorated with dazzling white lights. As you take a turn around the corner, you'll come across a great photo opportunity - a prismatic snowman standing next to a prismatic starry light arch. After that, you'll proceed towards five spruce trees that are also decorated and lit with blue and white lights. These trees are part of our trim-a-tree program where families and businesses can purchase a tree and decorate it. Across from our donor board, you'll find two more spruce trees, beautifully decorated with blue and white lights.

Segment 3:

As we draw closer to the animal habitats, the split rail fencing separating humans from animals is adorned with strands of red, white, and blue lights. During our night-time events, the arctic foxes and otters may not be in their habitats as they are either sleeping or indoors. However, the bald eagles are out at all times. The red, white, and blue strands of lights extend all the way to the bridge that goes over the otter habitat. On the left side directly across from the bald eagles, there are four trees, each decorated with their own set of lights in the same theme of red, white, and blue. The otter bridge is lit with large white bulbs on the posts and frame. In front of the kestrel, tufted deer, and raven's habitat, there are spiraled strands of white lights that illuminate the pathways. On the right-hand side, across from the raven and pony habitats, there are multiple trees with purple and white lights spiraled around their trunks. White lights shine up against the tall wooden fencing of the new okapi habitat, which will be on exhibit early next spring! Our new flower mural has white lights pointed at it on your left.

Segment 4:

Once you have passed the okapi habitat, you will continue with multi-colored lights stranded on the trunks and branches of multiple trees that are in a line. There are also a red, green, blue, and white lit spruce trees on your right. On your left in front of the flower mural are more trees that people decorated and are red, green, blue, white and red. The trees stop right before the farmyard that is closed during this event. If you take a right, you will be at the red panda exhibit. There are large white bulbs strung on the outside of the building frame. As you keep walking towards the Feline/Primate House, on both sides of you are four spruce trees that are individually lit with green, blue, white and red lights. The trees are mirroring each other as you walk down the path. As mentioned before, our murals are being lit up by white beaming lights that show flowers and hummingbirds eating. You have now walked to the Feline/Primate house. Leading up to the house are multi colored strands of lights on our low wire fencing. The building itself is framed with large white bulbs. Across from the building are two multi-colored spruce trees. Take a moment to visit inside and warm up!
Segment 5:

After leaving the Feline/Primate House, turn right and head towards the snow leopard habitat. The pathway from snow leopard to lions is illuminated with multi-colored strands along the wire fencing on both sides. As you approach the anteater habitat, you will notice rainbow lights illuminating the tall wood fencing, tree trunk, and branches that are spiraled with multi-colored lights. It’s a beautiful spot to stop and take a photo! The lights continue like this until you reach the Savannah Grill. During our Wonderland of Lights event, you can stop here to get a tasty treat or yummy hot cocoa! The seating area at the grill is surrounded by red and white lights, and the building is framed with large white bulbs.

Segment 6:

Once you turn the corner to the right, you will be walking towards the rhino habitats and green space. This short pathway is illuminated with red and white lights, which are placed on multiple tree trunks on your left side. On your right, there are bright red and white lights that glow on the bushes surrounding the lions’ habitat. The rhino habitats are also adorned with red and white lights that are spiraled on the railings. The green space is filled with tons of lights, including large trees with red lighted trunks and white strands on the branches. We have lights that are shaped like trees and are either red and white or mixed with both colors. Additionally, there is a circle of white lights that surrounds the entire area. At the back of the green space, you will find a white snowman that is brightly lit, and it’s flanked by small spiral white trees on both sides. You can either walk in a circle around this area or walk by it and continue on your way to the Reptile and Small Mammal House. Once again, there are white and red lights on the fencing surrounding the rhinos. At the end of the rhino habitats, you will see a brightly white lit deer family that has red bows on them. This is the perfect time to walk through our Small Mammal and Reptile House. This building has its own audio tour, which you can listen to if you’d like!

Segment: 7

After exiting the Reptile and Small Mammal House, you will need to turn left on the main pathway. Soon, you will come across three spruce trees that will be lit with white and red lights. Once you have turned the corner to your left, you will find yourself at the back of the zoo. As you walk, there are tall wooden fencing with white and blue colors patterned along it on your left, which is the elk habitat. On your right is a new display of our cultural spruce trees. These trees represent different cultural holidays and are decorated accordingly. The order of the trees is as follows: Christmas (with red lights), Hanukkah (blue lights), Kwanzaa (Green Lights), Three Kings Day (blue lights), Chinese New Year (red lights), Bodhi Day (multi-colored lights), Las Posadas (yellow lights), and Yule (white lights). We had several outside organizations come together to decorate these trees, making it a truly special experience!

Segment: 8

As you approach the penguin there are blue lights strung around the habitat. To continue your journey, turn right after you pass the penguins, where you will find more white lights framing the bongo habitat. Just beyond this area, there is a ballerina decoration illuminated with blue and white lights. The pathway leading to the rhinos' indoor viewing area is adorned with multi-colored lights. However, please note that this pathway is a dead end, so you will need to turn back and walk towards the penguins again. On your left is the Public Safety building, which is lit with large bulbed lights. The split rails leading to the elk habitat have thick spiraled white lights. Please be aware that we close off access to the elk habitat during this event, as it is unsafe to go down the stairs in the dark. The children’s memorial garden area is illuminated with green and blue lights shining on the trees. At this point, you have a choice to make. You can either go through our
As you continue down the main pathway, there are several spruce trees on both your right and left sides. On the right-hand side are four spruce trees adorned with blue, white, red, and green lights, while on the left-hand side, there are spruce trees decorated with red, blue, white, red, and green lights. As you continue on this path, you will come across other trees wrapped in multi-colored lights spiraled around their trunks and branches. Moving forward, there is a beautiful wall of lights on your right, which is a perfect spot for a group photo. These lights hang in a rainbow of colors. If you want to visit our Eurasian eagle owls, multi-colored lights are strung towards their habitat to lead the way, even though they might not be very active. Further down the path to the right, you will find the VEZU building, where families can meet Santa if they want to. However, he is only available at the zoo on Friday and Saturday nights. If you are not interested in meeting him, please note that he is not at the zoo on Thursdays and Sundays. Across from the VEZU building, there are tree trunks and large branches decorated with pink and white lights.

As we take the last turn down the pathway before exiting the zoo, there is a tree with blue lights on the main branches. Next to this tree is a bench that has a snowman lit up behind it with large Christmas tree bulbs stacked on each other on either side. As we walk towards the kangaroo habitat, there are lights beaming on the wooden fencing in a row that are in this order: red, white, green, yellow, red, blue and white. At the end is a small building that we decorated as a gingerbread house. It is not accessible to go inside. The viewing area of the kangaroos has green and white lights spiraled on the top of the railing. As you continue to walk there are green and white lights beaming on the tall wooden fencing on both sides of you. The binturong viewing area also has green and white lights spiraled on the top of the railing. You will continue your walk to the exit of the zoo with this same theme. Lastly, there are white and blue lights on the trees on your left as you exit. You can choose to enter the Discovery Center building to make a craft and complete a fun learning activity!

Thank you for visiting our Wonderland of Lights! We hope you enjoyed your time at our zoo and will visit us again as we are open every day but December 25! The lights are available Thursday-Sunday through December 23.