

## 2024 Wonderland of Lights Audio Transcription

### Segment 1:

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 on the far left is a tree with red lights on the trunk and white lights on the branches. There are another two trees to the right, adorned with blue and red lights illuminating the trunks and white lights on the branches. On the right side, there are four remarkably tall trees with their trunks lit up in blue and red, 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 six spruce trees that are also decorated and lit with blue and red lights. The split rail fencing in front of these trees is lit up with red, white and blue 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 three more spruce trees, beautifully decorated with blue and red lights.

### Segment 3:

As we draw closer to the animal habitats, the split rail fencing separating humans from animals is adorned with strands of white 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 white strands of lights extend all the way to the bridge that goes over the otter habitat. As you approach the otter bridge, you'll encounter a charming snowman brightly lit up, waving a friendly hello! The otter bridge is lit with large white bulbs on the posts and frame. In front of the kestrel and tufted deer habitat, there are spiraled strands of twinkling white lights that illuminate the pathways. New this year, many habitats have lights on the top of the fencing to help illuminate your path. Between the tufted deer and lynx habitats, you will find six wreaths lit up with white lights! Just past the lynx habitat is our new hot cocoa and toys area! A great place to stop and get some warm cocoa or a fun toy that lights up. On the right-hand side, across from the lynx habitat and hot cocoa station, there are multiple trees with red and white or pink and white lights spiraled around their trunks and branches. The fencing in front of the trees have spiraling red lights. White lights shine up against the tall wooden fencing of the okapi habitat. Our 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 spruce trees on your right. Please note that during this event, our farmyard is closed and it is closed by using a string of red lights. Since you cannot enter the farmyard, you can make a right and either go towards our red pandas or the front of our okapi habitat. Red lights will lead you towards the okapi viewing area where you may or may not see our okapi, depending on the temperature outside. The red panda exhibit also has a string of red lights on the fencing. Some of our new murals featuring birds and flowers are beautifully illuminated with white lights, with large white bulbs adorning the tops of the fencing.

As you keep walking towards the Feline/Primate House, the right side has four spruce trees that are individually lit with multi-colored lights. You have now walked to the Feline/Primate house. Leading up to the house are multicolored strands of lights on our low wire fencing. The building itself is framed with large white bulbs. In front of the Feline/Primate House at the entrance is two lit up nutcracker soldiers. Take a moment to visit inside and warm up! This building has its own audio tour, which you can listen to if you'd like!

Segment 5: Now you have choice to make once you are done inside the feline/primate house. If you exit and go left, you will go in between the outdoor lemur habitat and bongo habitat. This area starts with blue and white lights illuminating the tall fences. As you walk down the path there will be blue strands on the split rail fencing. At the end of the path are light blue and white lights brightening the tall fencing.

Segment 6:

If you decide to turn right 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. 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 light blue and white lights, and the building is framed with large white bulbs.

Segment 7:

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 light blue and white lights, which are placed on multiple tree trunks on your left side. On your right, there are light blue and white lights that glow on the bushes surrounding the lions' habitat. The rhino habitats are also adorned with light blue and white lights that are spiraled on the railings. The green space is filled with tons of lights, including large trees with blue lighted trunks and white strands on the branches. New this year are large ornament decorations that are lit up. There are lights strung around the lights so that you cannot walk into them! Additionally, there is a circle of white lights that surrounds the entire area. 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. In the front of the green space area are four spruce trees lit with the mostly white tones. Once again, there are white and blue lights on the fencing surrounding the rhinos. At the end of the rhino habitats, you will see a reindeer with yellow lights decorated on it. 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 8:

After exiting the Reptile and Small Mammal House, which is lit with light blue and white lights, you will need to turn left on the main pathway. In front of the king vulture habitat there are white lights strung on the split rail fencing. Once you have turned the corner to your left, you will find yourself at the back of the zoo. You will approach our new accessible ramp that is lit on both sides with multi-colored lights. At the end of this ramp, on your left is the display of our cultural spruce trees. These trees represent different cultural holidays and are decorated accordingly. The order of the trees is as follows: Hanukkah (blue lights), Kwanzaa (green lights), Three Kings Day (pink lights), Chinese New Year (red lights), Las Posadas (yellow lights), Bodhi Day (multi-colored lights), and Yule (white lights). We had several outside organizations come together to decorate these trees, making it a truly special experience!

Across from this area are red and blue lights strung down the pathway. A red tree is placed across from the cultural trees. There is an indoor viewing area of the rhinos, and this area is lit with multi-colored lights on the fencing. As you keep walking you will find a decoration lit up with three penguins standing on each other. Across from this is a decoration of ice-skating animals.

#### Segment: 9

As you approach the penguins there are blue lights strung around the habitat. On your left is the Public Safety building, where strings of white lights are on the fencing. 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, red and blue lights shining on the trees. At this point, you have a choice to make. You can either go through our sensory garden, which has lights in various colors strung throughout the split railings or continue down the main pathway.

#### Segment: 10

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 five spruce trees adorned with green, yellow, blue, red and green lights while on the left-hand side, there are spruce trees decorated with lights mirroring the other side of trees. As you continue on this path, you will come across other trees wrapped in white lights spiraled around their trunks and multi-colored lights on the 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. Across from the rainbow wall you will find two blue lit swans near our waterfall. If you want to visit our ravens, 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 an array of light colors like pink, red, blue and green. White strands of lights are on the fencing in front of our elk habitat.

#### Segment: 11

As we take the last turn down the pathway before exiting the zoo, you will find another great photo area! A bench is illuminated by a large snowman with large Christmas tree bulbs stacked on each other on either side. As we walk towards the kangaroo habitat, there are green, blue, red and yellow lights beaming on the wooden fencing. At the end is a small building that we decorated as a gingerbread house. It is not accessible to go inside. Just past our quarters for conservation you will find seven spruce trees. The trees are lit every other with green/white and blue lights. The fencing in front of the trees has white spiraled lights. The viewing area of the kangaroos has white lights spiraled on the top of the railing with large bulb lights on the top of the habitat viewing area. As you continue to walk there are green and white lights beaming on the tall wooden fencing on the right. The binturong viewing area has blue and white lights spiraled on the top of the railing with large white bulbs on the top of the habitat as well. The bald eagle habitat from the exit side has white strands on the split rail fencing. Across from the eagles you will find a family of deer lit up with red bows on them. You will continue your walk to the exit of the zoo with this same theme. There continue to be green and white lights on the fencing at the pollinator garden. The trunks of the trees as you exit are red and blue with white lights on the branches. You can choose to enter the Discovery Center building to make a craft and complete a fun learning activity!

#### Segment: 12

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. There are no lights on Thanksgiving.