

2025 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 and white lights on the trunk and white lights on the branches. There are another two trees to the right, adorned with red and white 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 red and white, and the tops decorated with dazzling red and white lights as well. As you continue to walk, there will be one more tree on your left that is lit up with red and white lights on the trunk and white lights on the branches. When you take a turn around the corner, you'll come across a great photo opportunity – a bright red arch with a bow on top with small red trees on the left and right side. After that, you'll proceed towards six spruce trees that are also decorated and lit with red and white lights. The split rail fencing in front of these trees is lit up with white lights. These trees are part of our trim-a-tree program where families and businesses can purchase a tree and decorate it.

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. Just before the bald eagle habitat, there's a bench perfect for taking a photo with the snowman display positioned right behind it. The red, white and blue 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 family waving a friendly hello! The otter bridge is lit with large white bulbs on the posts and frame. In front of the bird of prey and emu habitat, there are spiraled strands of blue and white lights that illuminate the pathways. New this year, many habitats have white lights on the top of the fencing to help illuminate your path. Between the emu and lynx habitats, you will find six wreaths lit up with white and blue lights! Just past the lynx habitat is our 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 blue and white lights spiraled around their trunks and branches. The fencing in front of the trees have spiraling blue

lights. Teal 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 blue and white lights stranded on the spruce trees on your right. The fencing in front of the trees is stranded with blue lights. 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. There are no lights leading you towards the okapi viewing area because this animal is often indoors at night and hard to see. The red panda exhibit has a string of blue 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. Above you, vibrant multicolored lights shimmer overhead, creating the illusion of glowing rain. 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 has green lights illuminating it. 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, green, yellow, teal and red lights illuminating the tall fences. As you walk down the path there will be multi-colored strands on the split rail fencing. At the end of the path are blue, green, yellow, teal and red lights continue to brighten 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. Above you, vibrant multicolored lights shimmer overhead, creating the illusion of glowing rain. 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 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 white lights, which are placed on multiple tree trunks on your left side. The rhino habitat is adorned with white lights that are spiraled on the

railings. There are red lights illuminated the walls of the first habitat. The green space is filled with tons of lights, including large trees with white strands on the trunk and branches. There are three tree shaped decorations with red and white lights on them in the middle of the green space. Lights were strung around the lights so that you cannot walk into them! Additionally, there are other trees with white lights on the trunk and branches. After this area you will make your way towards the Small Mammal and Reptile House. Once again, there are white lights on the fencing surrounding the rhino habitat. At the end of the rhino habitat, you will see a reindeer with light blue 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 Small Mammal and Reptile House, which is lit with red and yellow 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 white lights. To the left of the ramp are three spruce trees decorated with white 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: Christmas (red and white lights), Hanukkah (blue and white lights), Kwanzaa (green and white lights), Three Kings Day (purple and white lights), Chinese New Year (red and white lights), Bohdi Day (multi-colored lights), Las Posadas (white and yellow lights) and Yule (white sparkling lights). This is the third year we have continued this tradition of celebrating different cultures and it continues to be a guest favorite!

Across from this area are multi-colored lights strung down the pathway. There is an indoor viewing area of the rhinos, and this area is lit with multi-colored lights on the fencing.

Segment: 9

As you approach the penguins there are teal lights strung around the habitat. In front of the penguin habitat is a great photo opportunity with a tall brightly lit snowman! Great place for a family photo. On your left is the Public Safety building, where strings of white and blue 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 rainbow-colored 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 seven spruce trees adorned with white, red, green and blue lights while on the left-hand side, there are five spruce trees decorated with 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 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. There is a fence with white colored lights in front of the rainbow wall of lights. We ask that guests do not cross this barrier for their safety. Across from the rainbow wall you will find additional multi-colored stringed lights near our waterfall. Further down the path to the right, you will find the VEZU building, where families can meet Santa if they want to 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 multi-colored lights. There are a prismatic snowman and tree next to the trees if you'd like another photo opportunity. Multi-colored strands of lights are on the fencing in front of our tufted deer 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. Across from this bench are more multicolored spruce trees on the left side of the pathway. As we walk towards the kangaroo habitat, many spruce trees lit in green and white strands. The fencing in front of the trees is also green 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 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 green and white lights spiraled on the top of the railing with large white bulbs on the top of the habitat as well. As you continue to walk, there will be green and white lights illuminating the left side of the path. The bald eagle habitat from the exit side has white and green 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 white with white and red 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.

