

Walter Family Arctic Tundra Fact Sheet

- *Walter Family Arctic Tundra*, located at the northern-most part of Lincoln Park Zoo, is home to Arctic polar bears.
- The outdoor exhibit space for the polar bears is 8,383 sq. ft. with an additional 3,100 sq. ft. of behind-the-scenes space.
- *Walter Family Arctic Tundra* features one expansive exhibit space which can be separated into two exhibits to accommodate separation or the arrival of polar bear cubs.
- The new polar bear habitat reflects the terrestrial nature of polar bears, with natural landscaping and artificial rock work.
- The exhibit highlights several water features including a running waterfall, winding stream and naturalistic pools varying in depth that enable the bears to exhibit natural diving and hunting behaviors. Water volume totals 49,900 gallons when the stream and waterfall are running.
- The underwater viewing area of the polar bear exhibit features a redesigned split-view, enabling guests to get nose-to-nose with the polar bears. Additionally, with the water level at 4.5 ft., guests can view both the land and water space simultaneously from the same vantage point.
- *Walter Family Arctic Tundra* offers guests several unique views into the exhibit including the north open-air view, ice cave viewing into both exhibit spaces, sheltered, split-view water viewing and south shelter viewing, which includes a training wall.
- A polar bear training wall can be seen at the south shelter where animal care staff will regularly conduct positive-reinforcement operant conditioning training sessions in the view of the public. The 10 ft. by 10 ft. training wall rests in the expansive window viewing, giving guests an immersive experience.
- *Walter Family Arctic Tundra* offers guests a sensory experience with squishy flooring to imitate damp soil near aquatic areas and an ice cave that has cooling mechanisms on both the visitor and exhibit sides as well as a tactile ice wall, reinforcing the importance of sea ice for polar bear survival in the wild.

- Offering opportunities for enrichment, the polar bear exhibit features various digging areas and also houses a commercial ice machine, which can produce large quantities of shaved ice for the bears.
- Off exhibit, *Walter Family Arctic Tundra* offers a denning area complete with a plunge pool and both indoor and outdoor behind-the-scenes spaces for a female and her potential cubs to bond and grow in size and strength before navigating the entire exhibit.
- Green roofs are installed on all compatible areas and are composed of trees, shrubs and sedum trays.
- *Walter Family Arctic Tundra* is a \$15.3 million exhibit and part of the *Pride of Chicago* capital campaign at Lincoln Park Zoo, which began in 2012.