

We propose a garden of landforms as substrates for life. These sculptural forms, constructed from compostable coir logs and home-sewn burlap earthbags, will receive seeds and plantings. At first, they will receive the planned list of species, and later, the unplanned genetic donations from the neighboring forest. Every surface of our garden is a fertile substrate ready to receive falling seed delivered by wind or animal carriers.

Low meandering berms influence the flow of humans and nonhumans while demarcating zones of wetness and dryness. The standing sculptural mounds become islands of birth and decay. Aggressive species can be confined to one mound, to offer species of a gentler nature to thrive on another mound.

Over the two year period, a policy of minimal intervention will allow the garden and its lifeforms to reach full expression. The landforms, in turn, will slump and decay, accumulating organic detritus which will strengthen the soil. At decommissioning time, the garden will be matted and thick with biodiversity, ready to be carved up into chunks of living earth for distribution to the public, or other parts of the garden. All that will remain to be reclaimed are the bones – the steel armatures that stabilize the mounds.

- SEEDLINGS AND COMPANIONS**
- BALSAM FIR
 - COMMON HACKBERRY
 - EASTERN WHITE CEDAR
 - JACK PINE
 - YELLOW BIRCH
 - WILD STRAWBERRY
 - FIREWEED

- CINNAMON FERN
- AMERICAN HOG PEANUT
- BOG ROSE-MARY

- FUZZY AND FURRY**
- VIRGIN'S BOWER
 - PRAIRIE SMOKE
 - FRINGED SAGE
 - BIG BLUESTEM
 - JEWELWEED

***NOTE ON SPONTANEITY**

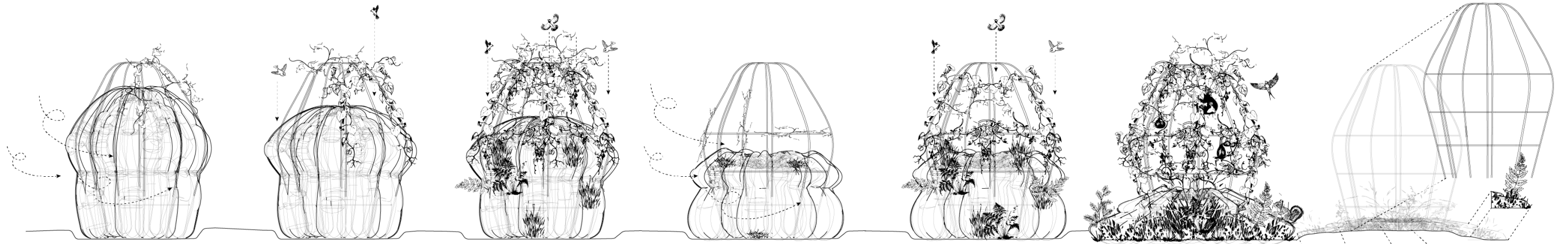
Each landform is an inhabitable surface for falling seed from the surrounding forest. These spontaneous plants are to be encouraged and celebrated as “hitchhikers” or “companions” enriching the biodiversity of the soil-fabric substrate that will be carved up and distributed at the garden’s end-of-life.

- CLIMBERS AND DANGLERS**
- WILD CUCUMBER
 - GROUND NUT
 - BIRDHOUSE GOURD
 - NATIVE HONEYSUCKLE
 - RIVERBANK GRAPE
 - SCARLET RUNNER BEANS
 - PURPLE SNAP PEAS

***NOTE ON PLANTINGS**

Plantings on each landform/mound are positioned based on their water needs: water-loving plants on the bottom and draught-resistant plants on the top.

LANDFORMS FOR LIFE FORMS



1. Seeded coir logs suspended in a simple scaffold provide the base for creeping and drooping vines. Seeds of local species arrive randomly via wind and animal carriers.

2. Vines such as native honeysuckle, birdhouse gourd, and ground nut creep ever-upwards while the coir logs sag to the wet earth below. Seeds that fell on the coir logs begin to take root.

3. Vines reach their full late-summer showiness. The shape and character of the bulging coir logs is still visible beneath some vegetation.

4. Dead annual vines fall to the center and decompose, strengthening the soil. Perennials hibernate for the winter.

5. Annual vines are replanted the following spring; native species begin their rebirth.

6. The coir logs reach their full slump while the vines produce fruiting bodies. The mound is now home to a multitude of species.

7. The semi-decomposed coir logs provide an easy-to-carve-away substrate loaded with biodiversity, ready for replanting elsewhere when the garden is decommissioned.



Decay and Rebirth

Every surface of the garden is a fertile substrate waiting to receive life.