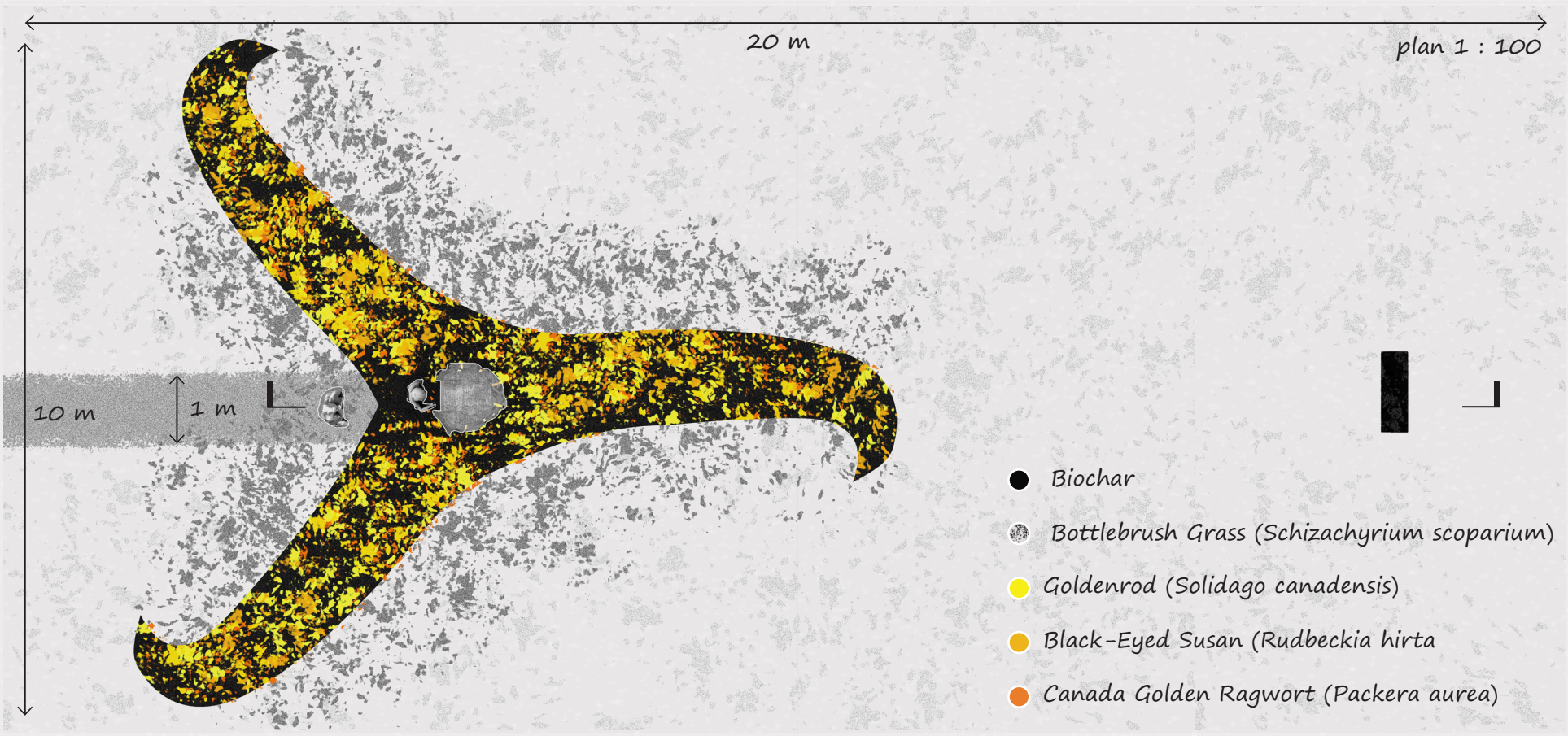
DARK MATTER

Dark Matter immerses visitors in Quebec's forest ecosystems, shaped by the forces of fire and regrowth. In 2023, Quebec experienced one of its most severe wildfire seasons, with fires consuming over 5 million hectares—ten times the usual area. These burned landscapes, often seen as scars, reveal nature's capacity for regeneration, as life surges in their wake.

At the heart of **Dark Matter** stands a 100-year-old burned Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis), sourced from Quebec's forests. This tree embodies both the growing wildfire threat and the powerful carbon-sequestering ability of forests. The darkened snag, machine-carved and hollowed, provides a sanctuary for forest species like woodpeckers, bats, insects, and birds who require dead trees for habitat.

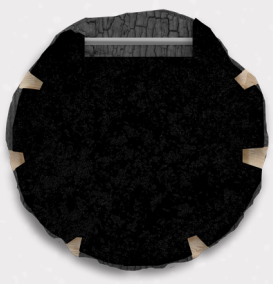
Encircling the tree, a spiraling geoglyph of locally sourced biochar—2 cubic meters—reflects the carbon it captured over its lifetime, creating a tangible, immersive experience of the forest's climate-mitigating role. A vibrant collage of wildflowers and grasses surrounds the snag, supporting a rich ecology of pollinators and small wildlife. After this 2-year installation, the snag will serve as a nursing log or be converted to biochar, contributing to the cycle of regeneration in the gardens.



steel ladder for viewing wildlife

axon 1 : 40

a. Scarring



Shallow grooves and cavities carved along the trunk to simulate natural wounds, promoting insect colonization and fungal growth.

b. Snag

Artificial cavities designed to attract a variety of species, from roosting bats to nesting birds like owls and woodpeckers. The snag supports insect colonization and acts as a shelter and feeding site for forest-dwelling animals.

c. Coronet

A jagged cut at the top of the tree resembling a natural break, creating small cavities and sheltered ledges. This feature attracts cavity-nesting birds like woodpeckers, as well as small mammals and insects.

4 m

1 m

c.

b.

a.

1 x 1 m concrete slab screwed to snag

section 1 : 40