

## **PROJECT PROPOSAL: Odonate Breeding Program**

For the INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL 2024

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In order to survive the Anthropocene, we must look for new collaborative strategies that we can integrate into our daily existence. We exploit and over-consume the atmosphere, fresh water, and food, in addition to natural spaces and resources. In all of these actions we leave a detrimental footprint that is causing the exponential degradation of our natural environment. If we ever hope to break free from the Anthropocene, we must encourage radical systematic change. This is especially true in the fields of landscape design and architecture; which should all be multipurpose, efficient, while having a low-carbon-footprint as they enhance the capacity of the surrounding environment. As such, the proposed installation for the 2024 International Garden Festival will utilize local materials in the construction of an architecture built primarily for non-humans.

The *Odonate Breeding Program* will present a large breeding site for the pest-predator order of Odonata (dragonflies/damselflies), and as such the garden will function as a natural method for preventing pest species such as mosquitos, their larvae, and black flies. The garden design will utilize native flora of Quebec, selected for their ability to attract and retain Odonata (and butterflies) as well as being edible for humans. It will also serve as a commingling space for a variety of other species, including humans—who can use the space for resting, socializing, as well as learning through observation.

The garden's design will occupy a large 5<sup>2</sup>m footprint to provide ample space for a colony of odonata to develop over the course of the 2024 International Garden Festival, however the garden's sphere of influence will extend far past its architectural limit as the odonata consume the area's pest species. The work will exist somewhere between land-art, architecture, landscape design and relational aesthetics as it strives to create a space for interspecies relationships to develop while also creating a positive and lasting effect on the surrounding ecology.

The way we design and alter the natural environment has a huge impact on our daily lives, but it also greatly contributes to land degradation and climate change. In creating spaces for cohabitation between species and symbiotic relationships to develop, we encourage not just a renewed interest in the natural world but also an empathetic relationship towards it, as well as a better narrative for the future.



Illustration by Justin Tyler Tate

### Physical Description:

*Odonate Breeding Program* will be a circular garden with a diameter of 5m containing a 1.3m deep natural aquatic garden filled with plants that are attractive to Odonata (and butterflies) as well as being edible to humans. It will be encased by an arched wooden dome that stands 2.5m above ground level, providing a myriad of spaces for insect and avian species to congregate. *Odonate Breeding Program* is a natural micro-ecosystem that requires no additional machinery, pumps or filters; instead utilizing the garden's natural flora and fauna to clean, nitrify and oxygenate the installation.

### Vegetation:

[Achillea millefolium](#) (Common Yarrow), [Acoru spp.](#) (Sweetflag), [Echinacea spp.](#) (Coneflower), [Lilium canadense](#) (Canada Lily), [Mentha spp.](#) (Wild Mint), [Monarda fistulosa](#) (Wild Bergamot / Horsemint), [Pontederia cordata](#) (Pickerel Weed), [Sagittaria spp.](#) (Arrowhead), [Smilax rotundifolia](#) (Greenbrier), [Stachys palustris](#) (Swamp Hedge-nettle / Marsh Woundwort), [Typha spp.](#) (Cattail), [Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum](#) (Watercress)