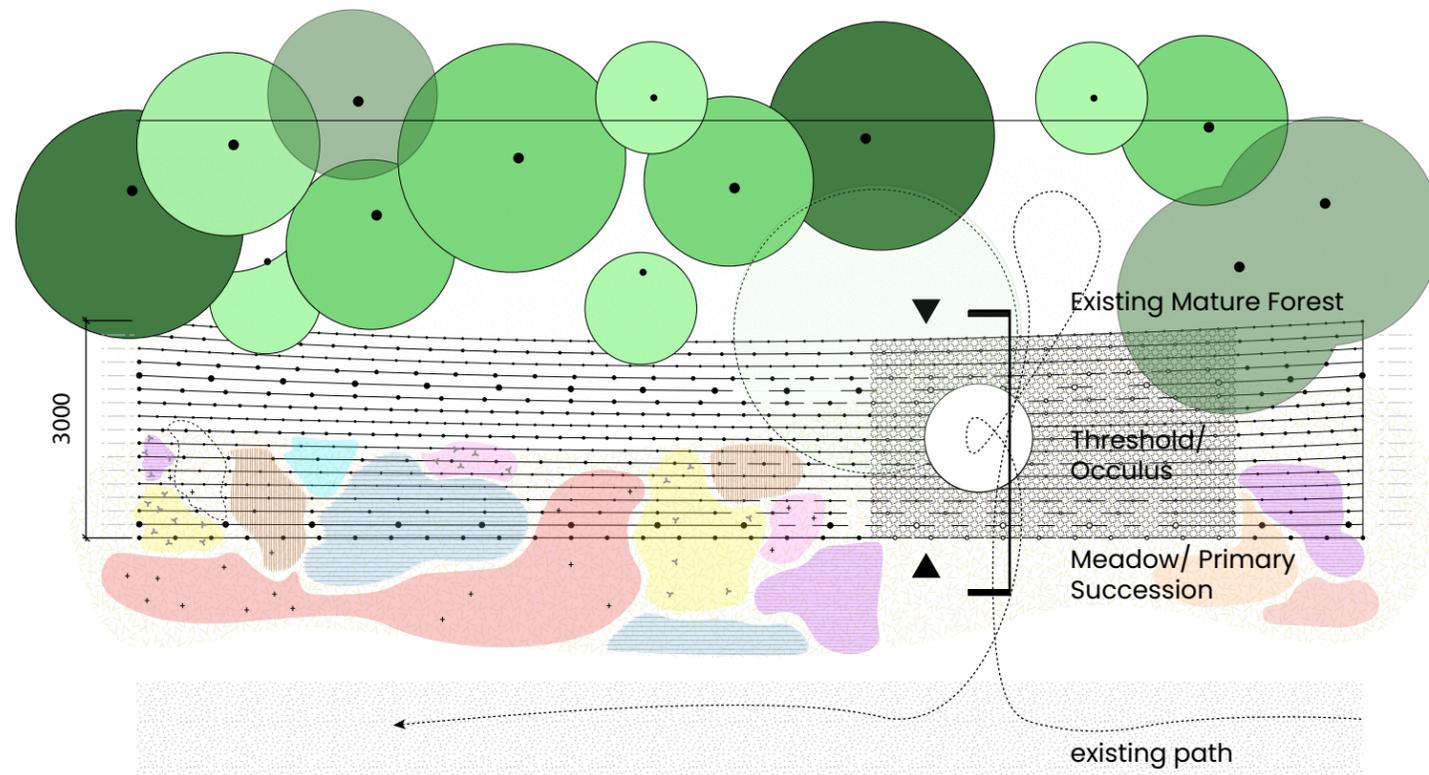
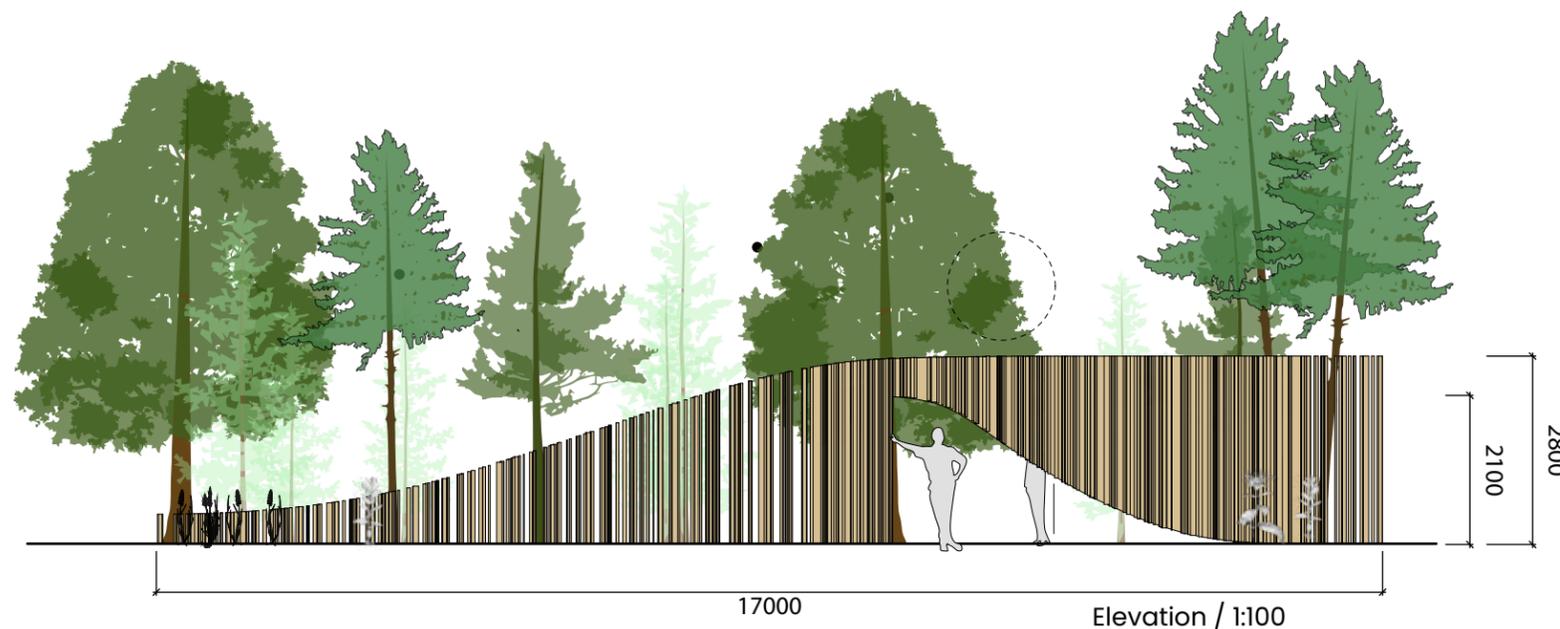


# Threshold of Succession

Making visible a vital landscape process



Plan / 1:100



On the south shore of the mighty St. Lawrence River once dominated by towering trees, this coast was reshaped through logging, settlement and shifting ecosystems. This installation draws on the landscape's memory of disturbance and renewal. "Veil of Succession" weaves living-and-once-living materials into a spatial journey: From meadow to pioneer forest to semi-mature canopy. Visitors pass through a bed of aspen-derived branches resting on the ground, rising through a vertical sequence of timber-forms, and finally arriving at a central oculus beneath the living forest above. The proposal reflects both the logging legacy that built Canada's growth and the longer ecological story of regeneration, acknowledging the land's past and the ecological intelligence of succession. Through materiality and movement, the project invites reflection on how the forest renews, how humans intervene, and how time, growth and decay co-author every place.

This experience is a form of sensitive mapping, tracing the layered histories of ecological disturbance, human intervention, and natural recovery. It honors the overlooked value of pioneer species as ecological agents, and beings whose life cycles embody adaptation, vulnerability, and strength. Through touch, movement, and immersion, visitors are invited to empathize with these species and to witness the forest's quiet choreography of life, death, and regeneration.

Climax

Growth

Renewal

Disturbance



\* To observe clearings, meadows, and forest edges—those spaces where the forest begins to imagine itself—is to witness the subtle choreography of ecological transition. Pioneer species, often humble and unassuming, lay the groundwork for more intricate communities to emerge. Each vegetative layer marks a moment in time; each leaf carries the memory of the soil beneath it.

## Structure/ Secondary Succession Plant Selection

The veil is primarily made of Aspen (Populus spp.) and pioneer wood: slender logs, branches, saplings used as structural/interpretive elements. Through live-staking, elements blur the line between living and dead, growth and decay, while referencing the region's legacy of colonization and commercial logging, and ongoing regeneration within the St. Lawrence valley.

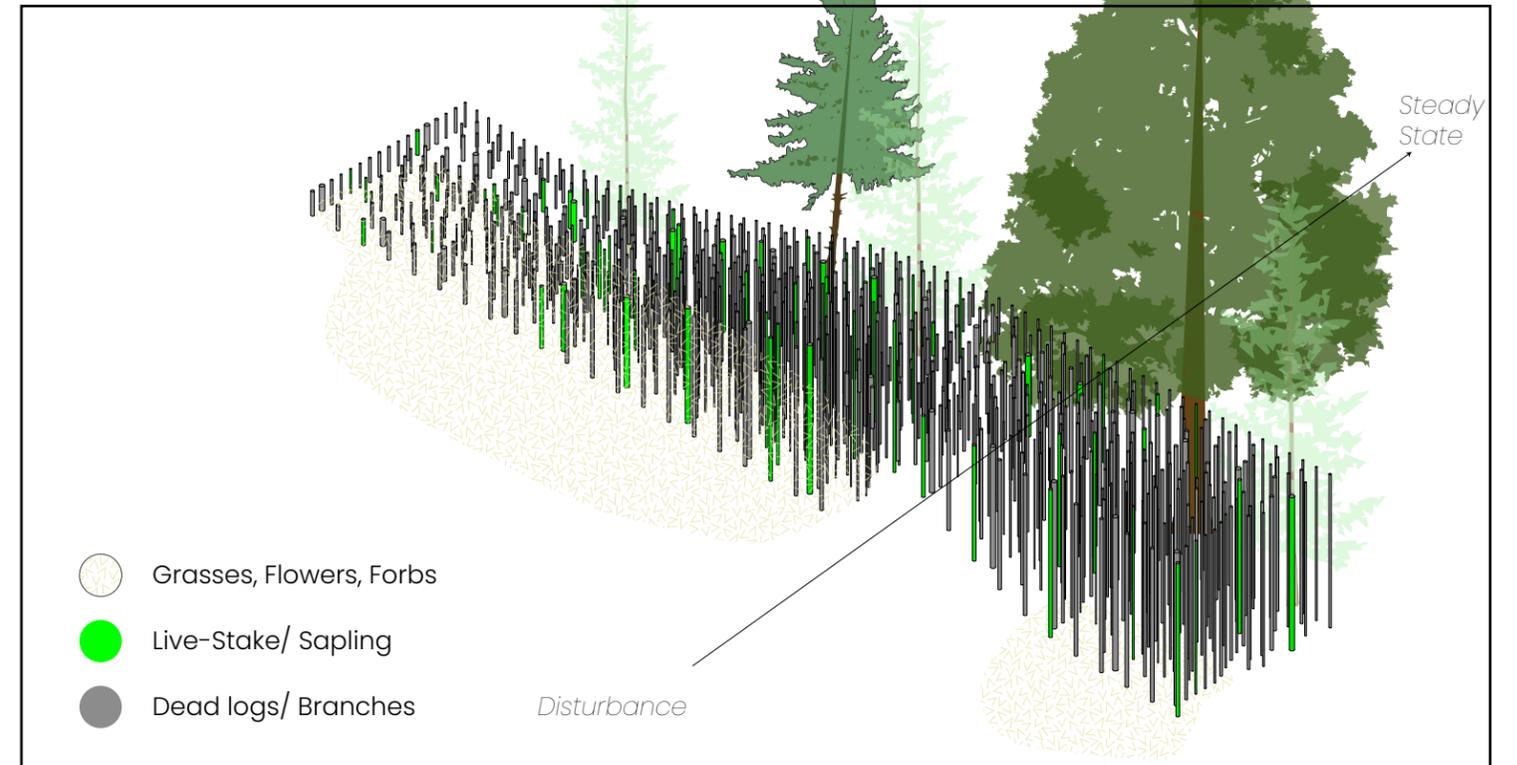


## Prairie-Meadow Grasses + Wildflowers & Forbs: Primary Succession Plantings



\* A disturbed environment (logging & fire) which will renew through a process of succession.

- 1 Andropogon gerardii (Big Bluestem) - 1.5-2.5m tall; late summer-early fall seed-heads; strong structural grass.
- 2 Panicum virgatum (Switchgrass) - 1-1.8m tall; full sun, adaptable grass for meadow texture
- 3 Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem) - 0.6-1.2m tall; good mid-layer grass, hardy to zone 3
- 4 Elymus canadensis (Canada Wild Rye) - 0.8-1.2m tall; pioneer grass for early succession
- 5 Solidago spp. (Goldenrod) - ~0.6-1.2 m tall; late-season yellow bloom, strong ecological value.
- 6 Verbena hastata (Blue Vervain) - ~0.8-1.2 m tall; tall spike, good for moist to average conditions.
- 7 Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster) - ~1-1.5 m tall; falls bloom, native to Québec.
- 8 Monarda fistulosa (Wild Bergamot) - ~0.8-1.2 m tall; pollinator friendly, mid-layer flowering.
- 9 Asclepias syriaca (Common Milkweed) - ~0.8-1.2 m tall; host-plant for monarchs, strong meadow value.

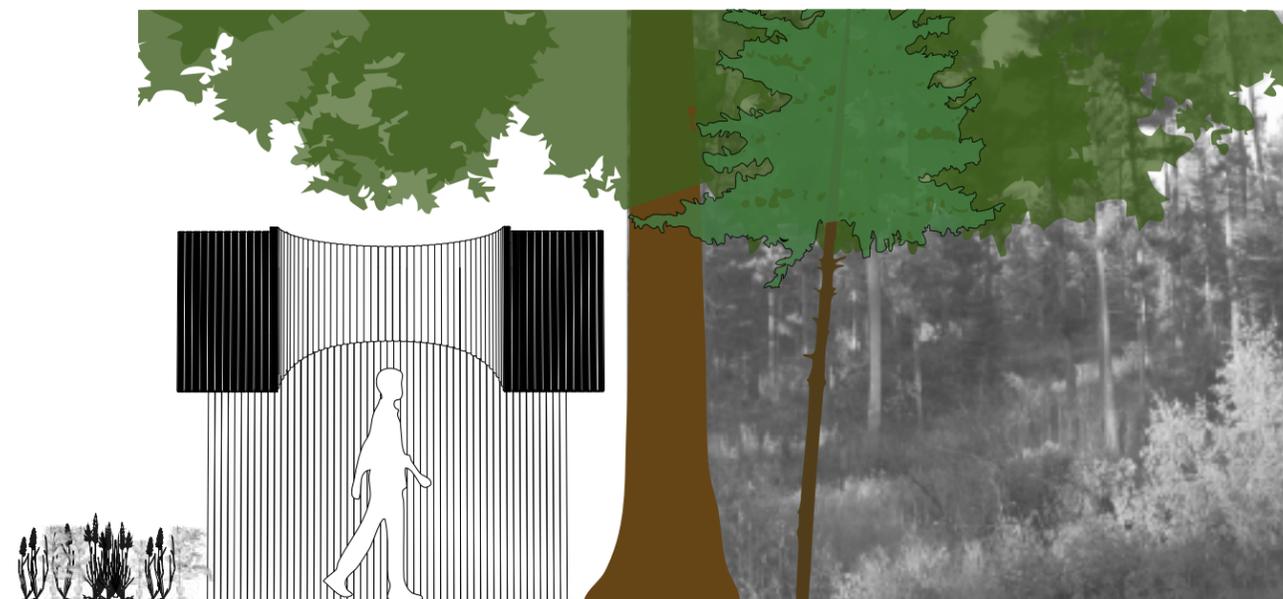


-  Grasses, Flowers, Forbs
-  Live-Stake/ Sapling
-  Dead logs/ Branches

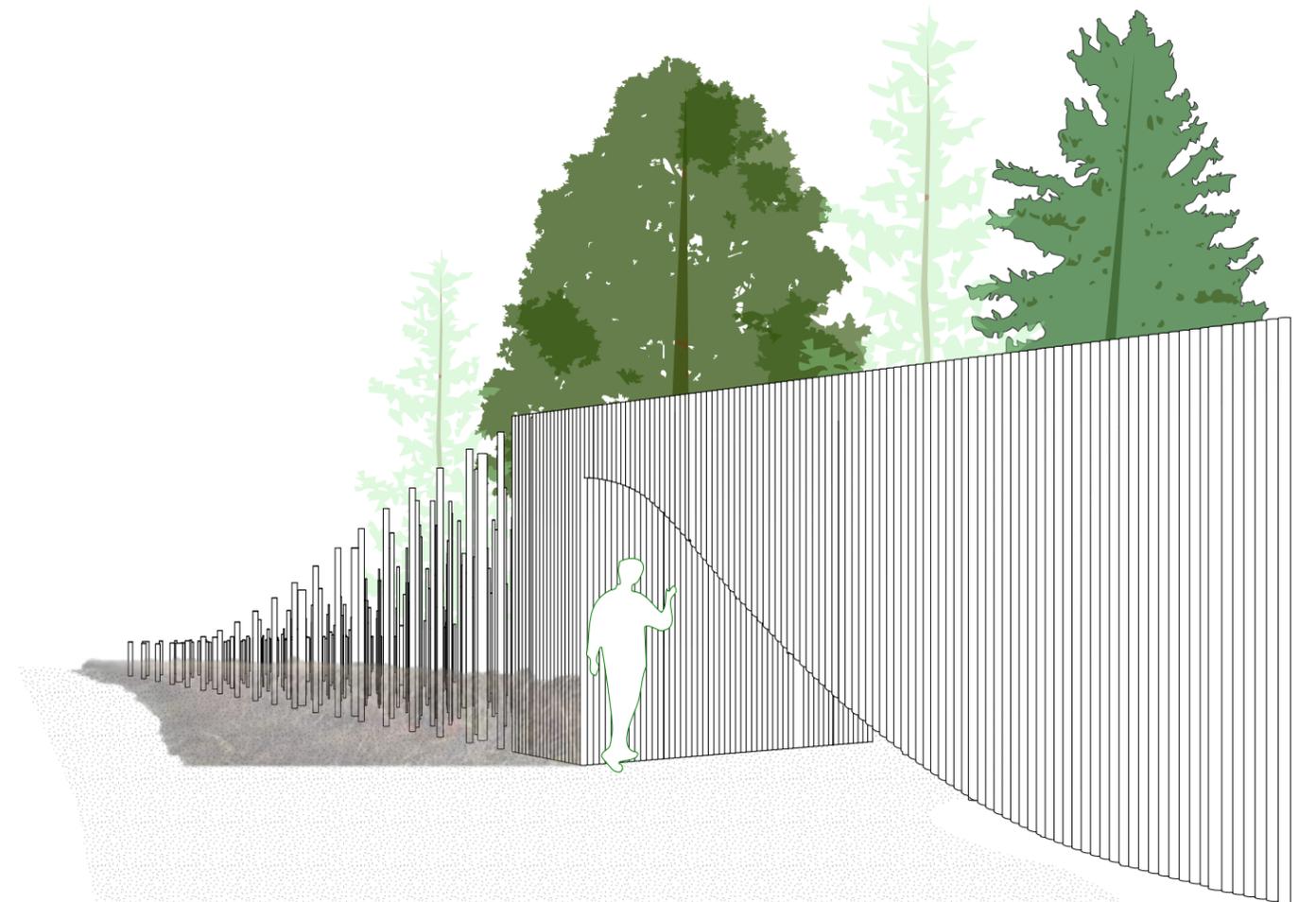
Steady State

Disturbance

Isometric



Section / 1:50



Perspective