

Tiny Forests

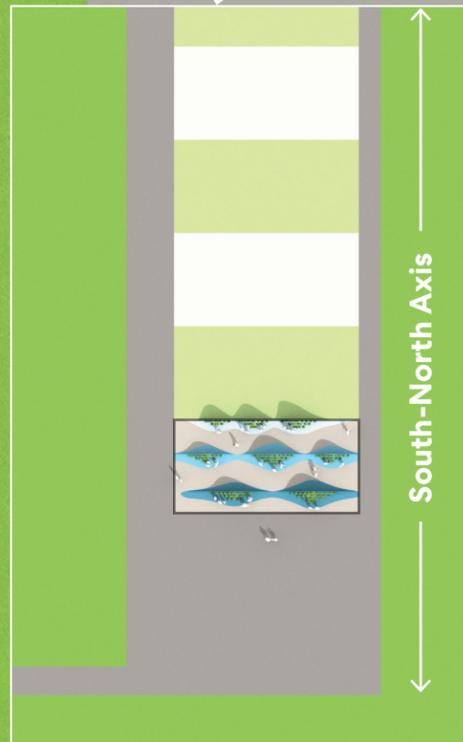
The mighty white pine, inexplicably clinging to a rock face and contorted by a century of storms. A grove of birch trees, bent but not broken by a heavy snow. The western old growth fir, rising above neighbouring giants, a silent witness to our history. These mighty trees define our collective image and experience of the Canadian wilderness. A beauty born of resilience and adaptation.

The coronavirus pandemic has challenged us to reflect on the resiliency, accessibility, connectedness and sustainability of our society and built environment. We have seen a renewed interest in “slow” activities and a return to nature. At the intersection of these desires is the art of Bonsai.

Tiny Forests is a celebration of Bonsai and a love letter to the forests of Canada. We invite visitors to appreciate the beauty and diversity of Bonsai gardening by presenting masterworks alongside the budding efforts of home hobbyists and selecting species from Canada’s eastern, central, and western forests. The bonsai trees are presented on a terraced landscape that can be viewed holistically as a forested hillside, or more traditionally as individuals against a coloured backdrop. Working with bonsai specialists, each tree will be styled for its unique placement within the installation landscape.

Tiny Forests

International Garden Festival sites

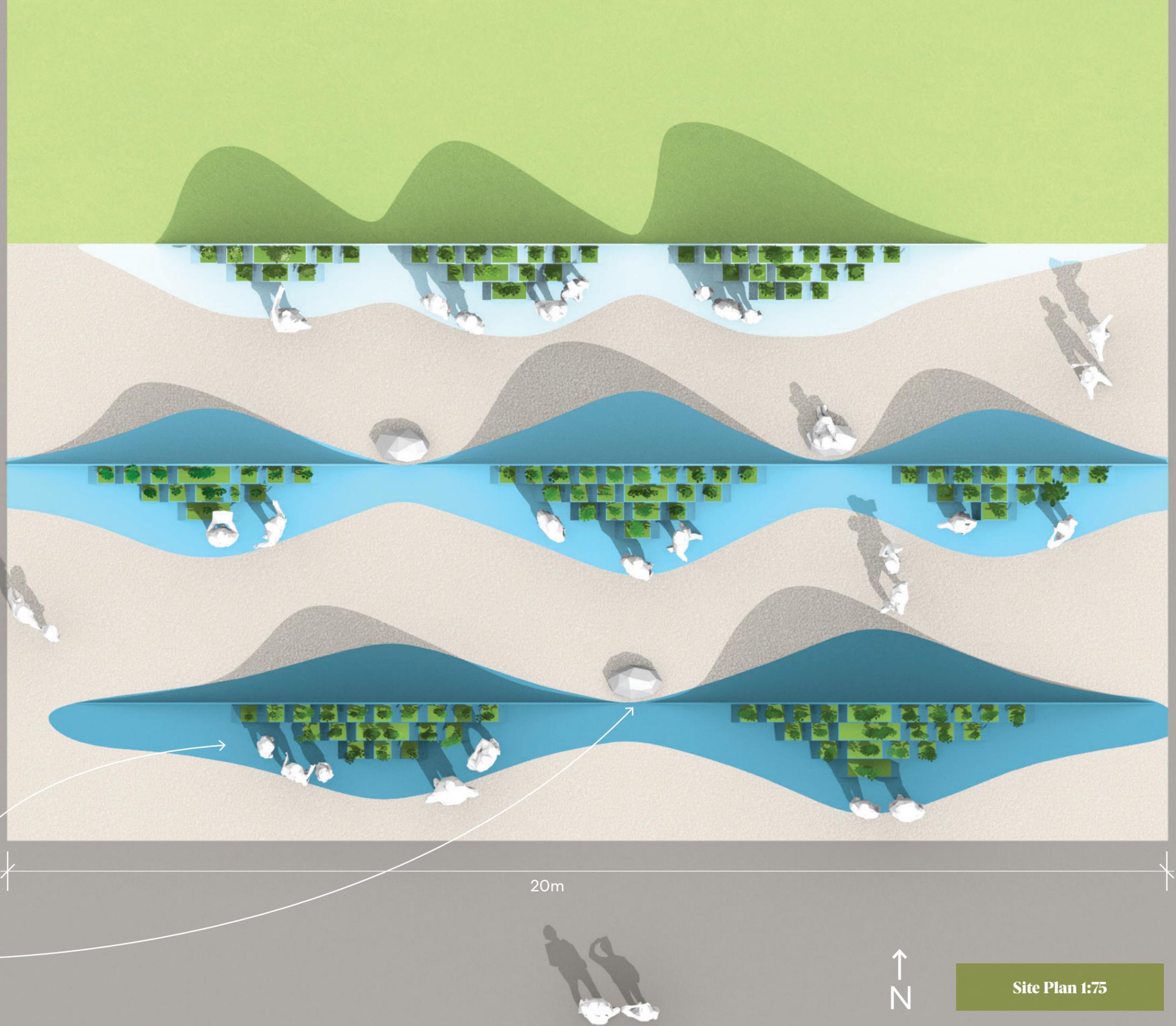


Partial Site Plan, NTS

Crushed granite paths to achieve physical distancing between each row of mountains

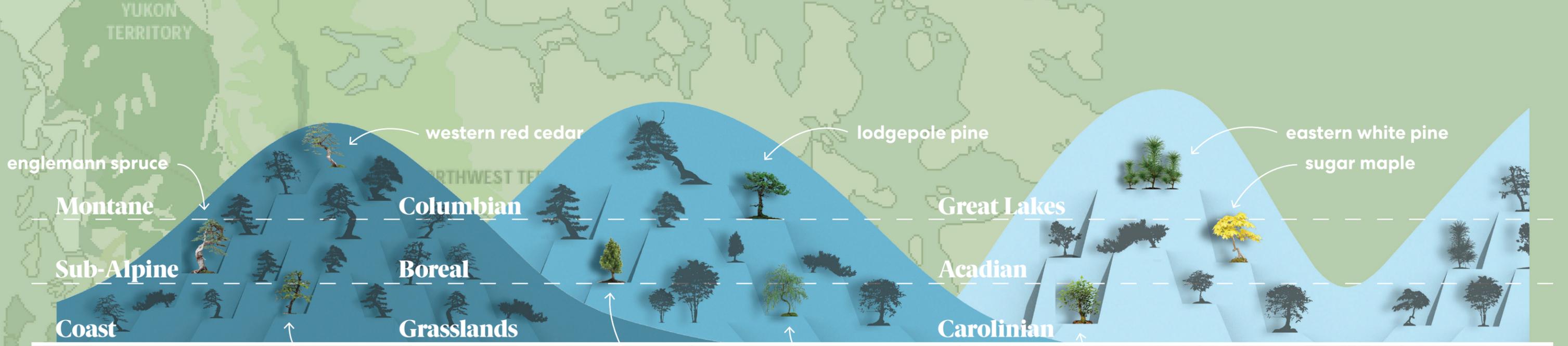
2' viewing zone at the front of each mountain

granite boulders to sit and view the bonsais



Site Plan 1:75

Tiny Forests



Front - West Coast

- western red cedar
- douglas fir
- western juniper
- coastal redwood
- western hemlock
- lodgepole pine
- englemann spruce
- sitka spruce
- lowland fir
- amabilis fir
- yellow cypress

Middle - Central Canada + Rockies

- willow
- bur oak
- white spruce
- black spruce
- tamarack
- lodgepole pine
- alpine larch
- rocky mountain juniper
- ponderosa pine, aspen
- white-barked pine
- rocky mountain white pine (limber pine)
- western larch
- alpine fir

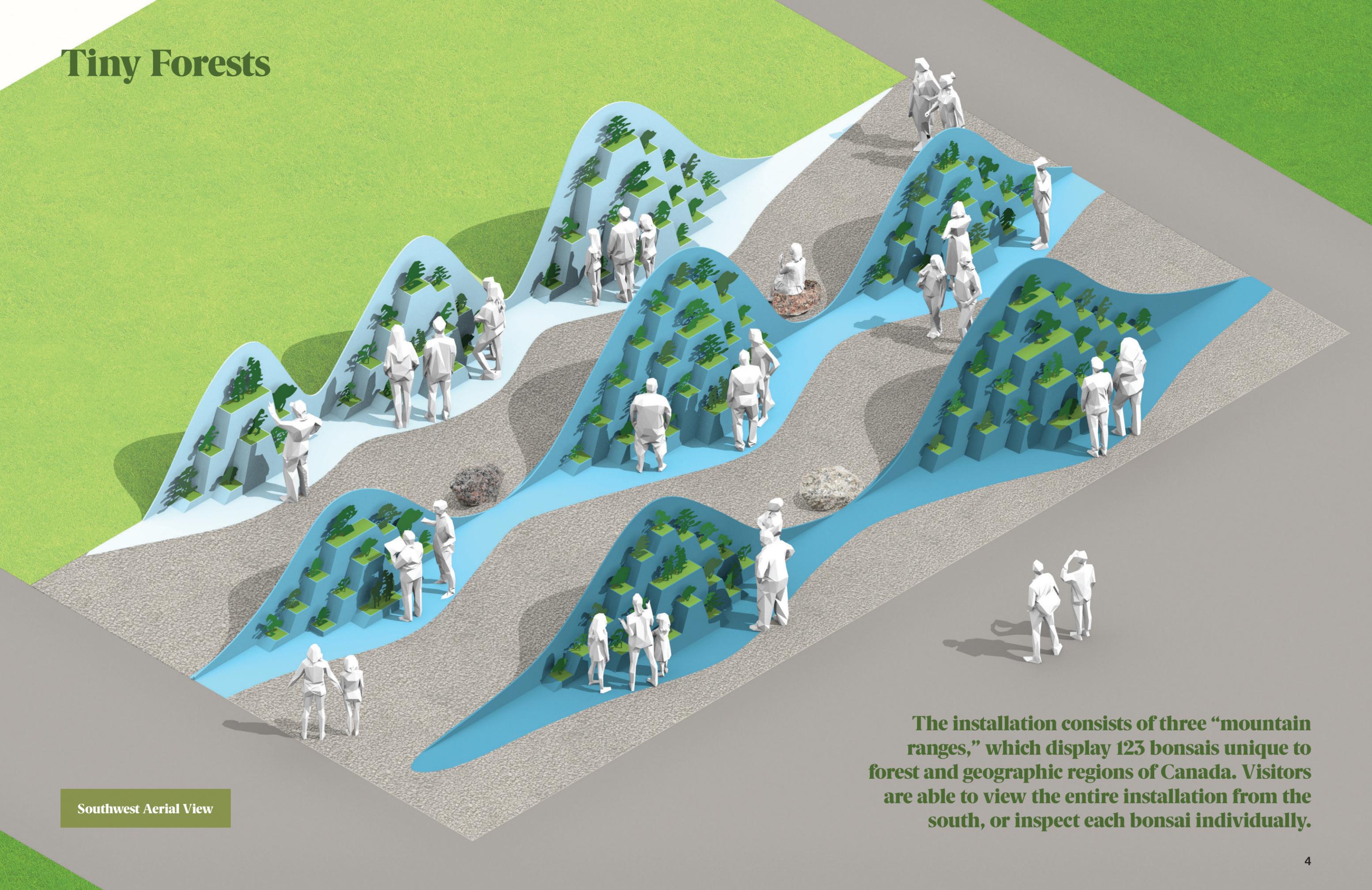
Back - Eastern Canada

- larch
- sugar maple
- paper birch
- red oak
- eastern white pine
- juniper
- elm
- white birch
- eastern redbud
- white cedar
- hemlock
- crab apple tree bonsai
- red pine
- flowering dogwood
- red spruce
- balsam fir

As we begin to explore sourcing materials, we will make a call to bonsai societies across Canada. Bonsai collectors have surplus trees that they may be willing to donate, or loan out.

Planting List

Tiny Forests

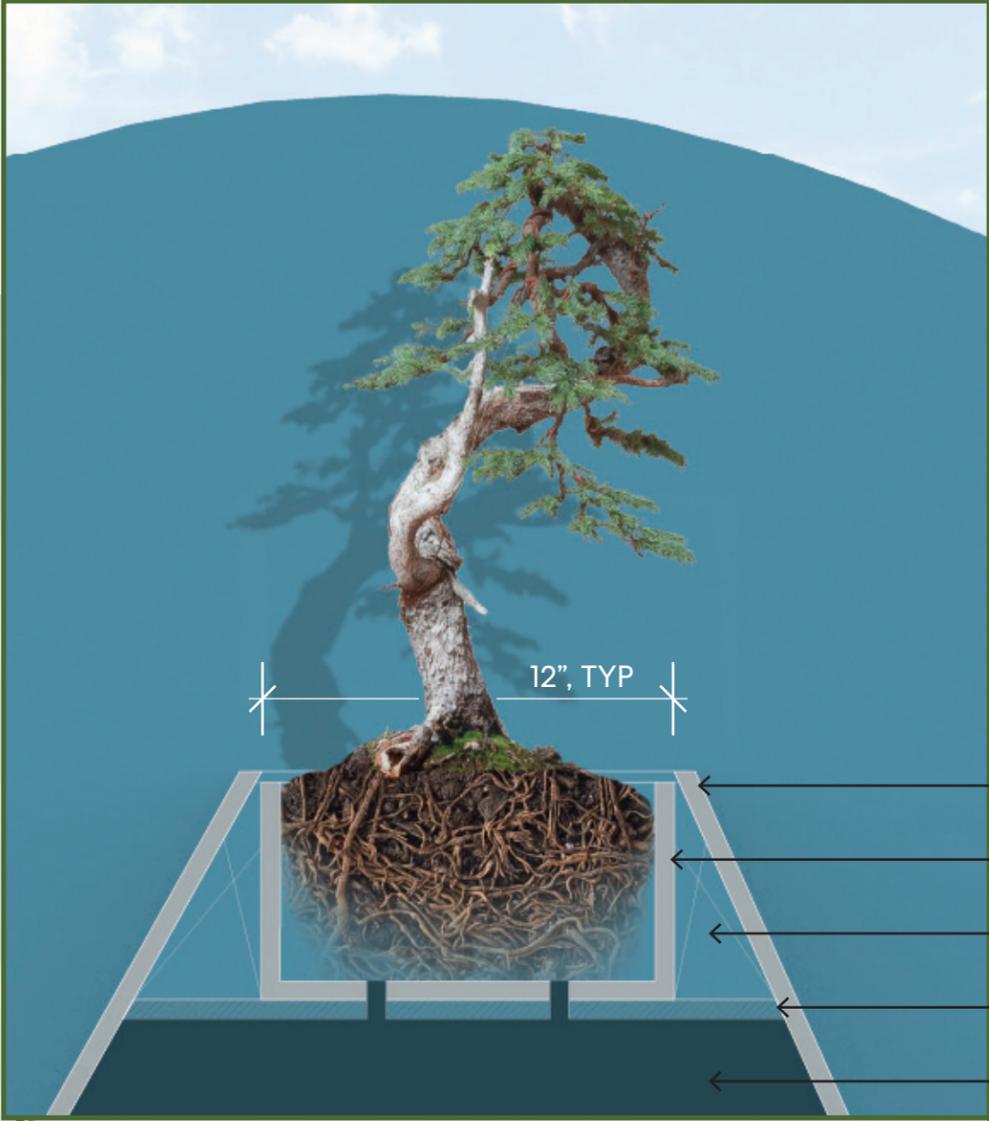


Southwest Aerial View

The installation consists of three “mountain ranges,” which display 123 bonsais unique to forest and geographic regions of Canada. Visitors are able to view the entire installation from the south, or inspect each bonsai individually.

Tiny Forests

In homage to traditional bonsai pots, the mountains will be constructed of ceramic panels that are often used as architectural cladding. We intend to develop a partnership with a local manufacturer to have the material donated as part of a sponsorship.



- Ceramic panel
- Removable bonsai pot
- Blocking beyond
- Support with drainage
- Void/structural support space



South Elevation

Tiny Forests

