

KWANGYA FOREST MAP



Kwangya Forest is located in Seoul Forest, Seongdong-gu, Seoul. It was first created in 2023 with the aim of conserving the ecosystem and nurturing ecological sensitivity. Through two expansions in the spring of 2024 and 2025, it has taken its current form, beginning with a forest of Kalopanax trees and extending into forests of oak and eastern white pine.

In this small universe where countless lives depend on one another, we invite you to become a traveler—observe and record nature, reflect on how to live alongside small lives, imagine the forest's secrets like a child, and take a moment to lie down, feel the wind and sunlight, and simply be.

ZONE 1 / Created in Spring 2023

Beneath the Castor Aralia Trees

Beneath the grand Castor Aralia trees, various wildflowers and shrubs grow. This sunlit forest edge is most beautiful in the early morning or around four or five in the afternoon, when the sun is low. You can sit on a long bench to look out over the lake or lie down and gaze at the sky.



A1 The Castor Aralia Forest

On rainy days, the darkened branches of castor aralia takes the lead in KWANGYA Forest. These trees, over twenty years old, provide shelter from the heat and offer nectar and pollen beloved by insects.



A2 A Secret Passage Among the Bushes

For shy birds, bushes are precious sanctuaries. In May 2023, the forest was filled with songs by rufous-tailed robins, migratory birds that grace Korea in spring and fall. What sound might you hear today?



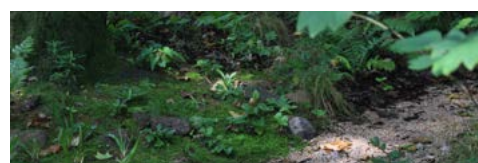
A3 Birds Tending the Forest

The varied tit has special love for snowball tree fruits. As late summer arrives, it hides the ripe fruits throughout the forest to save them for winter. Some of these treasures are forgotten and sprout into trees, becoming part of the forest again.



A4 Breathing Lights

After sunset, lights begin to flicker slowly from the crevices of rocks and trees, as if they are taking slow breaths. It seems like tiny beings dwell in them, ready to run away at the slightest disturbance!



A5 The Secret of Moss

Moss, thriving in damp places, acts as the forest's compass as it is often found on the north side of giant trees where the shade lingers. What types of moss can you discover on the northern side of the tree's branches?

ZONE 2 / Created in Spring 2024

Beneath the Oak Trees

Beyond the bushes, there is a small clearing under oak trees. Sit on the bench in the clearing and take a moment to look around. You'll see wildflowers growing around a decaying stump and a small water path where moss gathers. Listen closely to the rustling leaves and the sounds of birds.



B1 Beneath the Soft Soil

Beneath the fallen leaves and within the soft soil lies a bustling world of life. This delicate ecosystem is easily disturbed by a single footstep. Ants, flower beetles, stag beetles, cicada larvae, and earthworms live busily.



B2 Saplings

Across the forest, saplings have been carefully nurtured from seeds and planted. Take a moment to admire these young trees, each aspiring to grow into majestic giants: Blunt-lobed spicebush, Lobed-leaf alangium, Royal azalea, and Siebold's magnolia.



B3 Decomposers' House

In the forest, alongside producers and consumers, decomposers thrive on the nutrients from dead trees. Mushrooms and wood-eating insects are essential for the forest. What magical creatures do you see among the neatly stacked logs?



B4 Meals for Caterpillars

Butterfly caterpillars are picky eaters that favor the leaves of specific plants. Asian swallowtail larvae seek out the mastic-leaf prickly ash, while princess gifu butterfly larvae prefer the wild ginger.



B5 Forest Keeper's Laboratory

This cozy laboratory is where SM Entertainment employees and their families plant and observe the plants they have nurtured, striving to enhance urban biodiversity together.

ZONE 3 / Created in Spring 2025

Beneath the White Pine Trees

Here, we tend to nature and help the land recover. Each year, we transplant young trees and cover them with fallen leaves. Roots and tiny creatures soften the compacted soil. Imagine the quiet, yet certain movements of these small lives as they make their way through the earth.



C1 Between People and Nature

We placed stones and planted grasses and small trees between the forest—where young saplings and narrow-mouthed toads can rest undisturbed—and the paths where people linger. It is a gentle boundary that respects both people and nature.



C2 A Place for Narrow-Mouthed Toads

From late autumn to early spring, the narrow-mouthed toads retreat into the soil near the ponds where they live and fall into sleep. Many come to this forest for hibernation. Imagine them quietly breathing in their burrows.



C3 A Blanket of Leaves

In autumn, the forest keeper brings some of the fallen leaves from other parts of the forest to this place. These leaves provide a hearty meal for the soil's many tiny creatures and protect the earth from erosion caused by wind and rain.



C4 Roots of the Trees

Many seeds dropped by the trees in this forest grow into young saplings. Each spring, the forest keeper transplants some of these to this area, helping tender roots gently soften the compacted ground. See if you can spot the little trees growing beneath the larger ones.



C5 A Pause Beneath the Trees

The swaying branches in the wind, the soft rustle of fallen leaves. Footsteps and laughter of visitors. The sap rising through tender new leaves, and the quiet breath of a toad resting underground. Sit on the bench beneath a tree, take a pause, and draw this scene in your mind.