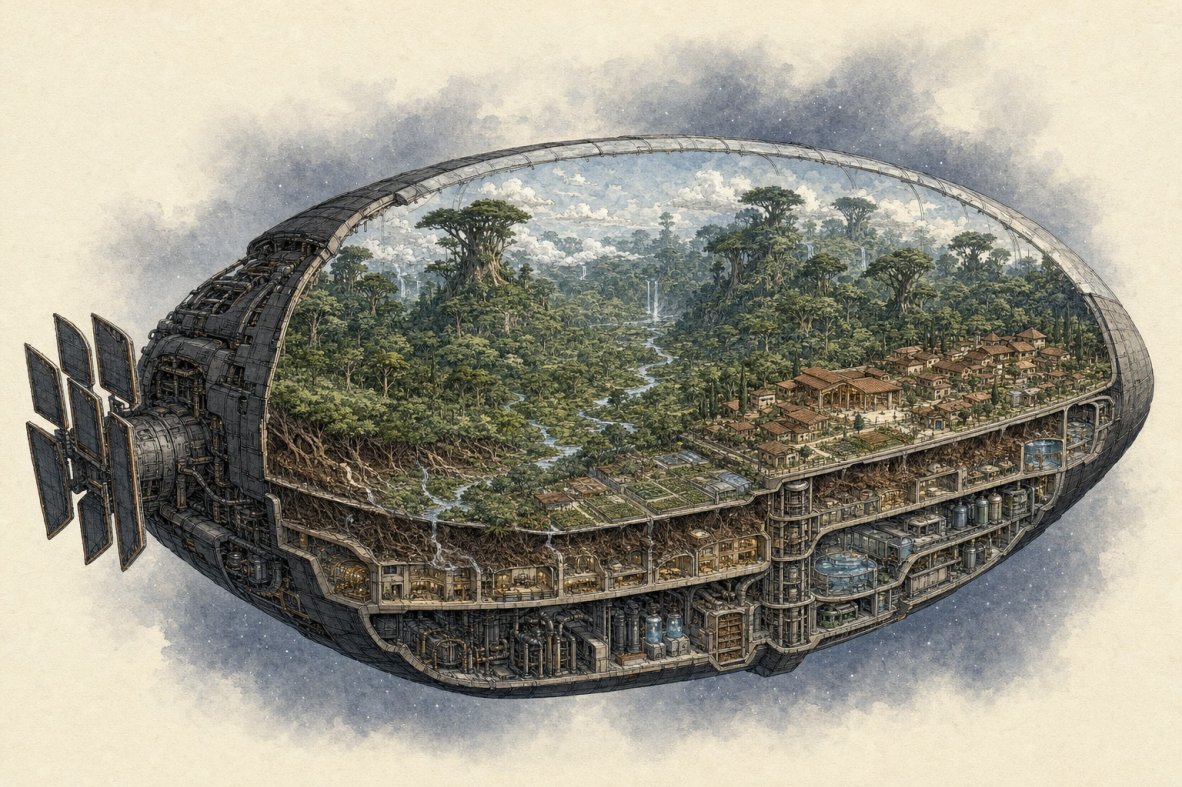
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The Longwood Passage



You’re moving a living place, not a collection of trees. This ship carries the old forest with its soil, streams, wildlife and changing weather, alongside a village that can keep caring for it across generations. I’ve organized the vessel around an uninterrupted landscape, with the machinery and most human construction beneath or beside it.

You asked for

Our world is dying, and we're carrying its oldest forest to a new one. The ship has to hold the whole forest — tall ancient trees, the animals that live among them, streams and weather — and the village of a few hundred keepers who look after it on a journey that will last generations. I'd like the forest to feel like a real forest, not a greenhouse, and the village to feel like home. Show me how something this enormous is lived in, cared for and kept alive between worlds.

The designer’s response

I’ve made the ship a traveling watershed with a village at its edge. That lets you see a forest stretching away into weather, rather than trees arranged inside a room. Beneath it, a separate working world of galleries, stores and replaceable equipment

gives the keepers somewhere to do the less picturesque work of keeping it alive.

The cutaway shows the landscape and the supporting machinery together, but it can’t also make every household or animal readable. Your forest’s actual extent, ecology and keeper bodies will determine the eventual dimensions and provisioning. The drive, gravity and long-duration ecological support are fictional design mechanisms, not engineering certification.

Details to discover

The painting is an artist’s impression. Where it differs, these notes describe the designed ship.

A forest needs a horizon

The luminous sky sits well above a continuous, uneven woodland, with clouds and haze giving distant trees somewhere to disappear. The protective roof is opaque rather than glazed. That choice makes the forest read as a landscape with weather, while keeping its weather machinery behind an accessible boundary.

From your idea: “a real forest, not a greenhouse”

Home at the forest’s edge

The village occupies a raised terrace instead of spreading foundations among the oldest roots. Courtyard homes have private rooms and sheltered thresholds, while the commons gathers food, learning and records around a square. The keepers can belong to a village without turning the woodland into its street grid.

From your idea: “the village to feel like home”

The work stays reachable

Water screens, weather modules and replacement machinery face service galleries beneath or outside the habitat. Keepers can reach equipment without excavating major roots or working over the canopy. The cutaway exposes this second landscape of maintenance, making care part of the ship’s organization rather than an invisible promise.

From your idea: “lived in, cared for and kept alive between worlds”

Follow the thread

Stated paths through the design; quantities and capacity are not assessed.

Follow recovered water from Headwaters and Quiet Pools

Headwaters and Quiet Pools → The Weather Vault

The Weather Vault. Recovered water feeds the cloud and rain equipment

Follow separated treatment residue from Headwaters and Quiet Pools

Headwaters and Quiet Pools → The Deep Foundation

The Deep Foundation. Sealed containers hold separated treatment residue for later handling

Follow household wastewater from The Common Hearth

The Common Hearth → Headwaters and Quiet Pools

Headwaters and Quiet Pools. A separate sealed treatment train receives household wastewater; it never uses an open stream as its sewer

Follow harvested food from The Graft Yard

The Graft Yard → The Common Hearth

The Common Hearth. Harvested food is stored and prepared in the commons kitchen

Story sources

A forest needs a horizon

The Oldwood Basin. Ancient canopy trees rise above younger growth, fallen trunks, thickets and open streambanks. Uneven ground preserves sheltered hollows and distinct soil communities. Deep root zones extend into the foundation without becoming service corridors. Narrow keeper paths follow existing clearings; wildlife routes remain continuous across the basin. Stream water and buried irrigation outlets support the living soil during dry spells.

The Weather Vault. A high opaque vault supplies a broad artificial sky, with light distributed through a luminous upper atmosphere rather than bright strips just above the trees. Recovered water feeds the cloud and rain equipment. Concealed perimeter outlets shape winds; rain, mist, seasonal light and dry intervals can vary across the forest. This is an enclosed sky, not exterior glazing, and the weather equipment is reached from outside the habitat airspace.

Home at the forest’s edge

Hearthbank. A settlement for a few hundred keepers sits on a raised edge terrace, clear of the oldest roots and flood hollows. Small lanes, shared gardens and sheltered stoops face the forest rather than an institutional corridor. A broad public path connects homes, the commons and the care yard; quiet footpaths enter the woods, while freight descends into service galleries.

Courtyard Homes. Homes gather around planted courts, with private sleeping rooms, kitchens, washing rooms and adaptable work or family rooms. Timber interiors and repairable clay finishes make the terrace feel inhabited rather than temporary. Covered ground-level entries and gently graded lanes suit different ages and mobility needs. Interior windows face courts or forest; they are not openings through the space hull.

The Common Hearth. A linked kitchen, dining hall, school rooms and archive surround a covered square. Smaller rooms support private study and meetings, so a celebration needn’t occupy everyone’s home. Harvested food is stored and prepared in the commons kitchen. Cold stores and dry stores are reached from the freight side; household wastewater leaves through sealed drains.

The work stays reachable

The Deep Foundation. A thick bed of preserved ground rests above accessible structural cells. Service galleries pass beneath, not through, the main root masses. They contain power distribution, air buffers, repair stock, water connections and fictional field-gravity equipment. Sealed containers hold separated treatment residue for later handling. Storage is finite; recovery and eventual offloading still need a long-duration inventory plan. Lifts connect the village and care yard, while separate inspection galleries reach water and sky equipment.

Headwaters and Quiet Pools. Streams descend through real beds of stone, gravel and roots into low pools. Hidden collectors return water to the headwaters. A separate sealed treatment train receives household wastewater; it never uses an open stream as its sewer. Recovered water is held for the weather system after treatment. Removable screens and sampling points face a service gallery, not an animal bank.

The Weather Vault. A high opaque vault supplies a broad artificial sky, with light distributed through a luminous upper atmosphere rather than bright strips just above the trees. Recovered water feeds the cloud and rain equipment. Concealed perimeter outlets shape winds; rain, mist, seasonal light and dry intervals can vary across the forest. This is an enclosed sky, not exterior glazing, and the weather equipment is reached from outside the habitat airspace.

Ship profile

A few hundred keepers live here across generations, sharing the ship with the forest’s original wildlife, plants, fungi and soil life. You haven’t specified the keepers’ species, so I’ve used revisable upright, two-handed bodies for the village and work equipment. The animals remain inhabitants of a connected habitat, not exhibits; veterinary spaces support care without making the forest a collection of enclosures.

Aboard the ship

Courtyard Homes

Homes gather around planted courts, with private sleeping rooms, kitchens, washing rooms and adaptable work or family rooms. Timber interiors and repairable clay finishes make the terrace feel inhabited rather than temporary. Covered ground-level entries and gently graded lanes suit different ages and mobility needs. Interior windows face courts or forest; they are not openings through the space hull.

The Common Hearth

A linked kitchen, dining hall, school rooms and archive surround a covered square. Smaller rooms support private study and meetings, so a celebration needn’t occupy everyone’s home. Harvested food is stored and prepared in the commons kitchen. Cold stores and dry stores are reached from the freight side; household wastewater leaves through sealed drains.

The Oldwood Basin

Ancient canopy trees rise above younger growth, fallen trunks, thickets and open streambanks. Uneven ground preserves sheltered hollows and distinct soil communities. Deep root zones extend into the foundation without becoming service corridors. Narrow keeper paths follow existing clearings; wildlife routes remain continuous across the basin. Stream water and buried irrigation outlets support the living soil during dry spells.

The Graft Yard

Beside the village, a low working terrace holds a nursery, seed and fungal stores, a veterinary room, a clinic and repair benches. Productive gardens and enclosed food-culture rooms supplement gathering without depending on the ancient woodland for staple harvests. Handcarts leave by the forest path; replacement equipment goes down by freight lift. Quarantine rooms have separate air handling. Food capacity remains to be sized against the eventual population and ecosystem.

Still to decide

How extensive is the original forest, and which climate and species belong to it? I’ve left its boundary and ship dimensions unset rather than quietly reducing it to a grove.

I’ve assumed upright, two-handed keepers for the first layout. Their actual bodies, mobility needs and household customs can reshape the fittings without changing the forest-first organization.

The population is a few hundred, as you asked. Food-growing area, reserve stocks and treatment-residue capacity still need to be sized for that community and the length of the voyage.

The forest stays enclosed during travel. Arrival, transfer to the new world and any period of quarantine there are not yet designed.

More about this ship

A closer look

The Longwood Passage

The forest determines the ship’s footprint, rather than being fitted into a standard hull. Its original extent is still yours to establish; this plan carries the continuous woodland and its supporting ground, not a curated sample. The enclosed basin gives the landscape a horizon, while its deep foundation keeps most machinery out of the trees.

Headwaters and Quiet Pools

Streams descend through real beds of stone, gravel and roots into low pools. Hidden collectors return water to the headwaters. A separate sealed treatment train receives household wastewater; it never uses an open stream as its sewer. Recovered water is held for the weather system after treatment. Removable screens and sampling points face a service gallery, not an animal bank.

The Weather Vault

A high opaque vault supplies a broad artificial sky, with light distributed through a luminous upper atmosphere rather than bright strips just above the trees. Recovered water feeds the cloud and rain equipment. Concealed perimeter outlets shape winds; rain, mist, seasonal light and dry intervals can vary across the forest. This is an enclosed sky, not exterior glazing, and the weather equipment is reached from outside the habitat airspace.

Hearthbank

A settlement for a few hundred keepers sits on a raised edge terrace, clear of the oldest roots and flood hollows. Small lanes, shared gardens and sheltered stoops face the forest rather than an institutional corridor. A broad public path connects homes, the commons and the care yard; quiet footpaths enter the woods, while freight descends into service galleries.

The Deep Foundation

A thick bed of preserved ground rests above accessible structural cells. Service galleries pass beneath, not through, the main root masses. They contain power distribution, air buffers, repair stock, water connections and fictional field-gravity equipment. Sealed containers hold separated treatment residue for later handling. Storage is finite; recovery and eventual offloading still need a long-duration inventory plan. Lifts connect the village and care yard, while separate inspection galleries reach water and sky equipment.

The Nightward Works

An aft buttress carries a fictional long-burn interstellar drive, shielded power plant and replaceable machinery modules. External radiator leaves sit beyond the inhabited shell. The service spine connects this plant to the foundation without opening the forest to machinery spaces. Navigation and watch stations are here, reached from the village by the protected service route; the forest doesn’t become a bridge or an engine room.

Drawn in ink and watercolour

Layout, access and drawing details

How the ship is organised

Parts within parts · design organization, not measured geometry

The Longwood Passage Whole interstellar forest carrier · whole vessel

The Oldwood Basin Continuous forest habitat · inside The Longwood Passage

Headwaters and Quiet Pools Landscape water circulation and separated treatment · inside The Longwood Passage

The Weather Vault Atmosphere, daylight and weather · inside The Longwood Passage

Hearthbank Keeper village and forest threshold · inside The Longwood Passage

Courtyard Homes Private households and adaptable living space · inside Hearthbank

The Common Hearth Food, learning, assembly and shared memory · inside Hearthbank

The Graft Yard Ecological care, food production and repair · inside The Longwood Passage

The Deep Foundation Ground support, utilities, maintenance and reserves · inside The Longwood Passage

The Nightward Works Interstellar movement, power and heat rejection · inside The Longwood Passage

Connections aboard

Hearthbank → The Oldwood Basin Public footpaths through existing clearings

Hearthbank → Courtyard Homes Ground-level lanes and household entries

Hearthbank → The Common Hearth Covered public approach

Hearthbank → The Graft Yard Public and handcart access

The Graft Yard → The Oldwood Basin Keeper path with nursery-cart access

Hearthbank → The Deep Foundation Passenger lift, freight lift and protected stair

The Graft Yard → The Deep Foundation Freight and maintenance access

The Deep Foundation → Headwaters and Quiet Pools Dry equipment inspection access

The Deep Foundation → The Weather Vault Enclosed perimeter maintenance riser

The Deep Foundation → The Nightward Works Protected service spine with passenger access

The Nightward Works → The Deep Foundation Power supply

Headwaters and Quiet Pools → The Oldwood Basin Headwater supply and buried irrigation

The Oldwood Basin → Headwaters and Quiet Pools Stream drainage and low-pool collection

Headwaters and Quiet Pools → The Weather Vault Treated water feed

The Weather Vault → The Oldwood Basin Rainfall and atmospheric exchange

The Common Hearth → Headwaters and Quiet Pools Sealed wastewater pipe

Courtyard Homes → Headwaters and Quiet Pools Sealed household drain connection

Headwaters and Quiet Pools → The Deep Foundation Sealed residue transfer

The Graft Yard → The Common Hearth Garden and food-culture deliveries by terrace path

The Oldwood Basin is supported by The Deep Foundation, Headwaters and Quiet Pools, The Weather Vault.

Headwaters and Quiet Pools is supported by The Deep Foundation.

The Weather Vault is supported by The Deep Foundation, Headwaters and Quiet Pools.

Hearthbank is supported by The Deep Foundation, The Weather Vault.

Courtyard Homes is supported by Hearthbank, The Deep Foundation, Headwaters and Quiet Pools.

The Common Hearth is supported by Hearthbank, The Deep Foundation, Headwaters and Quiet Pools.

The Graft Yard is supported by Hearthbank, The Deep Foundation, Headwaters and Quiet Pools.

The Nightward Works is supported by The Deep Foundation.

Figures in the illustration plan

Keepers: 0

Forest wildlife: 0

These are illustration targets, not the ship’s population or a verified count in the painting.

Who fits, and how they use it

How the designer imagines the occupants using these spaces. The fit and access notes describe intentions, not measurements.

A few hundred keepers live here across generations, sharing the ship with the forest’s original wildlife, plants, fungi and soil life. You haven’t specified the keepers’ species, so I’ve used revisable upright, two-handed bodies for the village and work equipment. The animals remain inhabitants of a connected habitat, not exhibits; veterinary spaces support care without making the forest a collection of enclosures.

Scale: Use one coherent whole-vessel cutaway at landscape scale. Individual residents and small animals are omitted, not enlarged into diagram figures. Village roofs, mature tree crowns, stream valleys, weather layers and the deep foundation establish scale. Later local views must preserve the same room and body proportions; magnification must not change physical sizes. The forest extent is intentionally unspecified.

Keepers: Assumed upright bodies with two weight-bearing legs, two grasping hands and forward-facing vision; ages and mobility vary. Scale basis: For fitting studies only, an adult standing height of about 1.7 metres is assumed; child and seated access require their own reach envelopes. Movement: Walking, wheeled mobility aids and handcarts use graded village paths; passenger lifts connect the service level. Forest paths have varying natural terrain. Role: Residents, ecological stewards, growers, teachers, clinicians, maintainers and navigation watchkeepers. Planned visible figures: 0 (not a count verified in the painting) Too small if: No keeper is depicted at this landscape scale, so body fit is not locally inspectable. A later commons view must not make an adult so small that the shared table edge

reaches the shoulders. Too large if: No keeper is depicted at this landscape scale. A later care-yard view must not make an adult so large that the adjustable repair bench falls below the knees or the cart grips sit at ankle height.

Adaptable household rooms and covered ground-level entries — Graspable hardware, seated-height work surfaces and clear turning areas support varied ages and mobility.

Shared tables, kitchen worktops and low archive shelves — Standing and seated keepers can prepare food, study and reach everyday materials without climbing.

Adjustable repair benches, nursery carts and veterinary examination platform — Hands work within a supported reach zone; carts carry soil and equipment instead of requiring repeated lifting.

Passenger lift, protected stairs and withdrawable equipment racks — Keepers reach service galleries and pull modules into clear working bays.

Seated watch station with hand controls and bounded displays — Navigation work remains accessible from a supported seated position.

Forest wildlife: The original forest community includes terrestrial, climbing, flying, aquatic and soil-dwelling bodies; the species inventory remains open. Scale basis: Local relative units must follow the original species: bank shelves accommodate the largest resident terrestrial body, while canopy gaps preserve the flight and climbing envelopes of resident species. No common numerical animal size is assumed. Movement: Uninterrupted ground cover, connected crowns, open flight space, streams and shallow banks support the relevant modes of movement. Role: Free-living members of the carried ecosystem, including pollination, dispersal, grazing, predation and decomposition where present in the original forest. Planned visible figures: 0 (not a count verified in the painting) Too small if: Wildlife is not individually depicted, so body scale cannot be checked here. In a local view, a bank shelf narrower than the resident animal’s supported stance would reveal an undersized access feature. Too large if: Wildlife is not individually depicted. A later treatment view must compare the actual animal with the examination platform and recovery-room turning space rather than enlarging it to fill the composition.

Connected canopy, ground cover and gently shelving stream margins — Species choose their own routes, shelter and water access within the habitat rather than being routed through keeper rooms.

Adjustable examination platform and separable quiet recovery rooms — Keepers can support an animal’s actual body during necessary treatment; final platform inserts follow the species inventory.

Live privately, cook, wash and adapt rooms to changing households.

Keepers · Courtyard Homes

Intended approach: Hearthbank → Courtyard Homes

Fit: Graded lanes and ground-level entries accommodate the assumed adult body and wheeled aids.

Reach and visibility: Kitchen surfaces and everyday storage include standing and seated reach positions.

Working space: Entry and washing-room turning areas stay clear of door swings and stored belongings.

Maintenance: Utility panels face lane-side service cupboards rather than requiring bedroom access.

Prepare shared food, learn, meet and preserve records.

Keepers · The Common Hearth

Intended approach: Courtyard Homes → Hearthbank → The Common Hearth

Fit: The covered approach accommodates people passing carts and mobility aids.

Reach and visibility: Tables, kitchen stations and archive shelves offer supported seated and standing use.

Working space: The kitchen freight entry is separate from the public square approach; gathering space does not block classroom entries.

Maintenance: Food stores, drains and cooking equipment are reached from the freight side.

Inspect trees, sample soil and water, and bring nursery stock to appropriate clearings.

Keepers · The Oldwood Basin

Intended approach: Hearthbank → The Graft Yard → The Oldwood Basin

Fit: Cart-capable keeper paths follow existing clearings; rougher ground remains natural terrain.

Reach and visibility: Portable sampling tools reach ground and bank level; canopy work requires separately planned climbing equipment.

Working space: Small working clearings allow a cart to stand clear of the path without cutting major roots.

Maintenance: Tools and carts return to care-yard benches; buried utility inspection stays outside root masses.

Raise food and replacement plants, treat illness, and repair equipment.

Keepers · The Graft Yard

Intended approach: Hearthbank → The Graft Yard

Fit: Terrace paths and work bays accommodate the assumed keeper body, carts and wheeled aids.

Reach and visibility: Adjustable benches and examination supports bring work into supported hand reach.

Working space: Treatment and quarantine entries remain separate from food handling; freight lift landing stays clear.

Maintenance: Food-culture modules, air filters and bench equipment withdraw toward service bays.

Sample water, clean collection screens and service the separated treatment train.

Keepers · Headwaters and Quiet Pools

Intended approach: Hearthbank → The Deep Foundation → Headwaters and Quiet Pools

Fit: Dry galleries provide upright and seated inspection positions without requiring entry into a stream.

Reach and visibility: Sample taps and removable screens face reachable gallery-side panels.

Working space: Screen withdrawal and sealed residue handling have dedicated landing space outside the through-route.

Maintenance: Isolatable equipment modules leave by the foundation freight route.

Maintain weather equipment and inspect atmospheric controls.

Keepers · The Weather Vault

Intended approach: Hearthbank → The Deep Foundation → The Weather Vault

Fit: An enclosed perimeter riser reaches equipment galleries; access does not depend on walking above tree crowns.

Reach and visibility: Controls and replaceable spray and lighting modules face the gallery.

Working space: Module handling occurs behind the habitat boundary with protected working platforms.

Maintenance: Local isolation and freight return allow equipment replacement without opening the whole vault.

Keep navigation watch and service power and propulsion modules.

Keepers · The Nightward Works

Intended approach: Hearthbank → The Deep Foundation → The Nightward Works

Fit: Passenger access follows the protected service spine, distinct from equipment transfer bays.

Reach and visibility: The seated watch station places bounded displays and hand controls within supported reach.

Working space: Watch seating and module withdrawal areas do not overlap.

Maintenance: Replaceable units move to foundation workshops; external radiator work needs a later dedicated procedure.

Move, shelter, forage and use stream habitat according to the original species.

Forest wildlife · The Oldwood Basin

Intended approach: The Oldwood Basin

Fit: Connected ground, crowns and watercourses are retained; detailed clearances follow the species inventory.

Reach and visibility: Shallow margins, vegetation and natural substrates provide body-appropriate access without keeper-operated controls.

Working space: Wildlife routes do not funnel into public village entries or service galleries.

Maintenance: Keepers inspect habitat from paths and banks; intervention is species-specific rather than automatic enclosure.

Design rules and where they came from

hold the whole forest — tall ancient trees, the animals that live among them, streams and weather

From your description (exact quote) · The Longwood Passage, The Oldwood Basin, Headwaters and Quiet Pools, The Weather Vault

the village of a few hundred keepers

From your description (exact quote) · Hearthbank, Courtyard Homes, The Common Hearth, The Graft Yard

on a journey that will last generations

From your description (exact quote) · The Longwood Passage, The Common Hearth, The Graft Yard, The Deep Foundation, The Nightward Works

forest to feel like a real forest, not a greenhouse

From your description (exact quote) · The Oldwood Basin, The Weather Vault

village to feel like home

From your description (exact quote) · Hearthbank, Courtyard Homes, The Common Hearth

Preserve a continuous woodland landscape and deep root ground; place the village on an edge terrace and most service access below or outside the forest.

AI proposal · The Longwood Passage, The Oldwood Basin, Hearthbank, The Deep Foundation, The Weather Vault

Fictional field gravity provides one common down direction toward the basin foundation throughout occupied spaces; the ship does not rotate for gravity.

AI proposal · The Longwood Passage, The Deep Foundation, The Nightward Works

Open streams and wildlife banks remain separate from sealed household wastewater treatment and its residue handling.

AI proposal · The Oldwood Basin, Headwaters and Quiet Pools, Courtyard Homes, The Common Hearth, The Deep Foundation

An opaque protective vault encloses a luminous atmospheric sky with clouds and variable weather; it is not a transparent greenhouse roof.

AI proposal · The Longwood Passage, The Weather Vault

The care yard combines ecological care, food production and repair, while the commons provides shared meals, learning and an archive.

AI proposal · The Graft Yard, The Common Hearth

For this first plan, keepers are assumed to have upright two-legged bodies with two grasping hands; their species and exact access needs remain revisable.

AI proposal · The Longwood Passage, Hearthbank, Courtyard Homes, The Common Hearth, The Graft Yard, The Deep Foundation, The Nightward Works

A fictional design imagined with AI — not engineering. The painting may differ from the design notes.

This dossier keeps its illustrations and notes together and opens without a new AI request. The full technical JSON record is available separately from the app’s Design notes; editable import is not supported.

Imagined at miomaci.com · 21 October 2026

This edition keeps the saved illustrations and written notes. Interactive layout diagrams are available in the online dossier.