

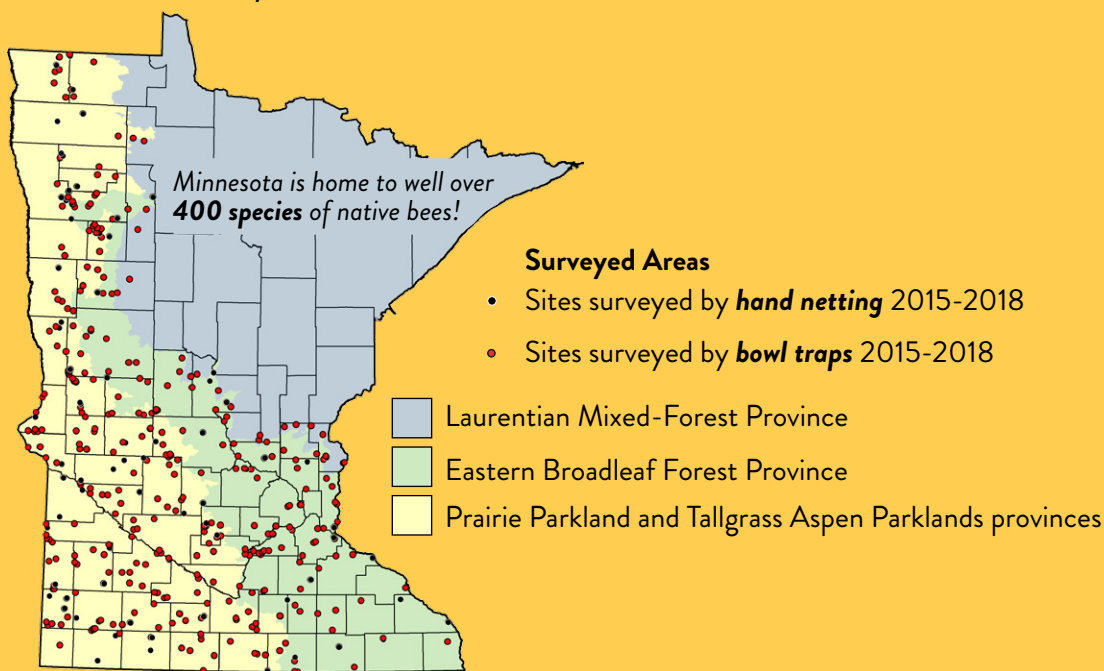
Wild Bee Surveys in Minnesota

Our knowledge of wild bees

Wild bees are vital components of Minnesota's ecosystems by providing essential ecosystem services such as pollination. Although our knowledge of the diversity and distribution of Minnesota's bees is improving, large gaps still exist.

Laying the foundation for bee research

Minnesota has an engaged and growing community of individuals and organizations committed to pollinator conservation. Wild bee conservation in Minnesota relies on understanding bee species diversity and distribution. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources surveys provide baseline information on the diversity and distribution of bees in Minnesota. Future research and monitoring on long-term population trends and impacts of stressors on diversity depend on a strong foundational survey.



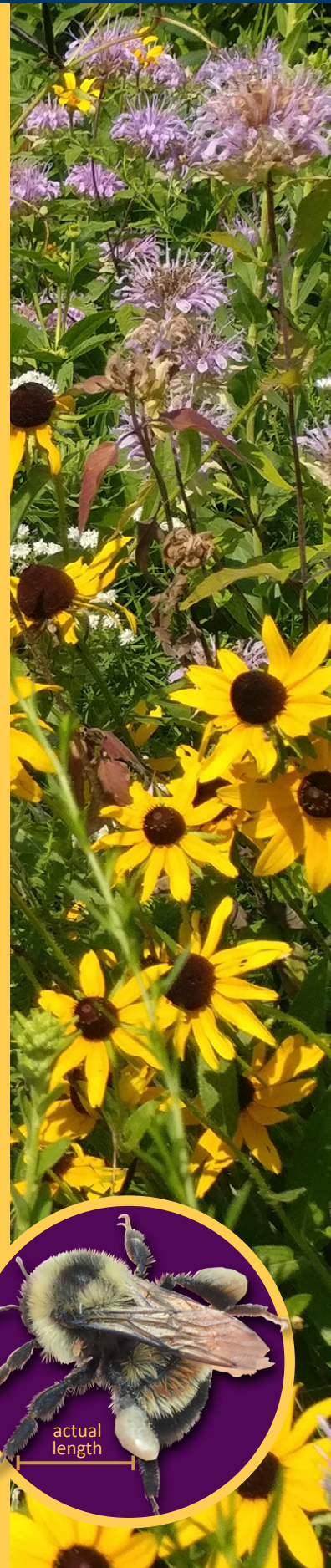
This project...

- has completed baseline surveys of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest, Prairie Parkland, and Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Provinces
- will complete the statewide bee survey in Minnesota by visiting habitats in the Laurentian Mixed-Forest Province
- will begin to regularly monitor bees to assess trends in abundance and diversity through time
- continues to develop resources and educational opportunities to promote conservation and appreciation of wild bees.



◀ Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

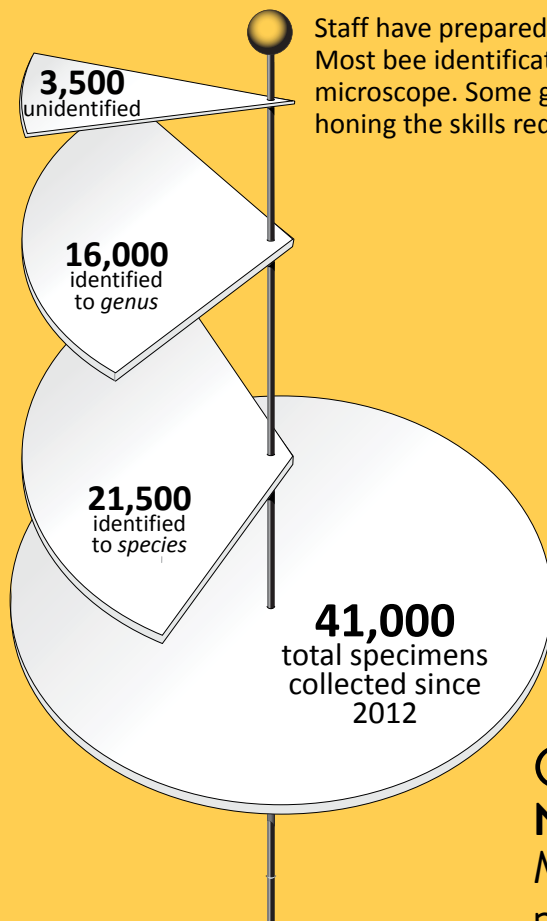
▶ Endangered Rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*).
photo: Jared Fitzenberger, Washington County Parks Division



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▲ Hand nets and bowl traps are used to collect research specimens. Bees are attracted to the brightly-colored cups that are set in typical bee foraging areas. Specimens are collected and identified to species. These data are recorded in a Minnesota native bee database.



Staff have prepared and identified a considerable number of collected specimens. Most bee identification requires trained taxonomists and lots of time spent under the microscope. Some groups of bees are easier to identify than others: workshops aid in honing the skills required for the more challenging bee species. ▼



Contact:
Nicole Gerjets Bee Specialist/Project Manager
Minnesota Biological Survey
nicole.gerjets@state.mn.us 651-259-5699