



Common House Fly - *Muscina* sp. (Muh · skih · nuh - Spee · seas) is just one genus out of over 100 that make up the family Muscidae, commonly called “house flies”. Their hairy bodies make them great pollinators, especially in Alaska where flies are the most species-rich group of pollinators. *Muscina* flies are most attracted to bright white flowers; you can find groups of them drinking nectar from w parsnip, wild celery, and other plants with small dense flowers. 0.5 ” total length



Mason Bee - *Osmia* sp. (Oz · mee · yuh - Spee · seas) are small solitary bees. Unlike honeybees and bumble bees, solitary bees nest alone - a single female will build a nest by laying several eggs in a row. *Osmia* bees build their nests in various materials like old beetle burrows, empty plant reeds, or holes in stones. These solita s come in a variety of colors like dark purple, green, blue, brown, or black. 0.2 - 0.5” long



Solitary Mining Bee - *Andrena* sp. (An · dree · nuh - Spee · seas) is a small solitary bee that nests in the ground. A single female will lay eggs in an underground nest that resembles a miniature gopher mound. *Andrena* bees vary in appearance - they can be brown, gray, black, or red, and have brown or golden hairs on their thorax. In Alaska these bees are typically are generalist pollinators, so you ca them on most flowering plants, trees, and shrubs. 0.25 - 0.5 ” total length



Alaska Yellowjacket - *Vespula alascensis* (Veh · spew · luh - Uh · Lah · sken · siss) is one of Alaska’s most common yellowjacket species. Worker female wasps collect protein (like insects and scrap meat) to feed larvae back at the nest and the worker occasionally needs to drink nectar from various flowers. Just like flies, yellowjackets pollinate flowers by passively collecting pollen in their abundant hairs. Yellowjacket wasps prefer to drink nectar from flat flowers like dandelions and wild roses. 0.4 - 0.6” total length



Red-disked Alpine - *Erebia discoidalis* (Er · ree · bee · yuh - Diss · koy · dal · iss) is one of 11 *Erebia* species found in Alaska. All butterflies in this genus are a dark chocolate brown with varying patterns of rust-colored patches. The Red-disked Alpine can be identified by the large “disks” of color on the fore wings. These butterflies can be found flying close to the ground specially near fields of tall grass on warm summer days. 1.5 - 1.75” wingspan

You can choose to participate in an iNaturalist Citizen Science Project: **The Great Alaska Pollinator Challenge!** (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/the-great-alaska-pollinator-challenge>)



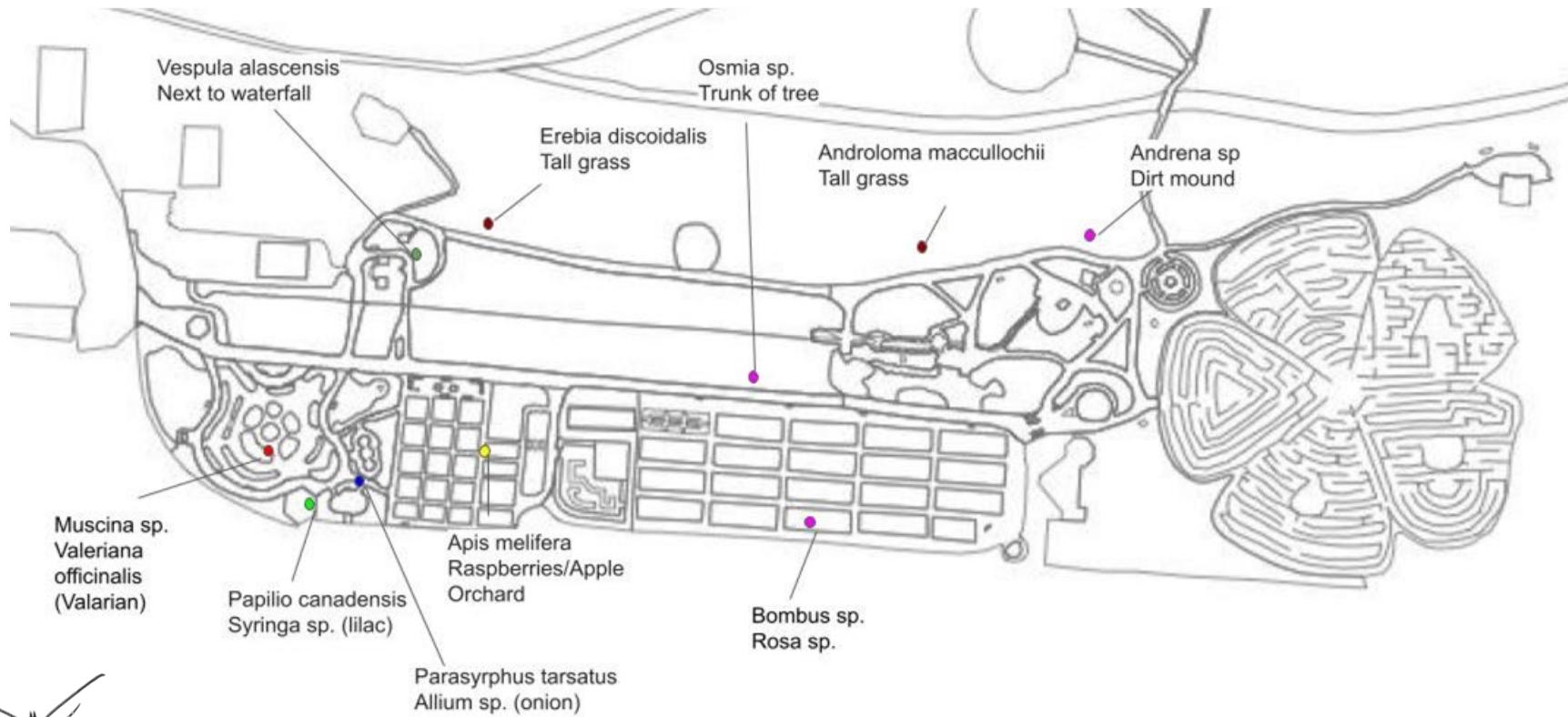
This project was a collaboration between the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District, the Alaska Association for Conservation Districts, and the Georgeson Botanical Garden. All artwork and entomological descriptions were provided by local artist, Renee Nowicki.

Pollinators of the Georgeson Botanical Garden

Scavenger Hunt and iNaturalist Challenge

- Find all 10 of the Pollinator Displays throughout the Garden!
- Check the box if you found the display sign.
- Check another box if you can find the actual insect pollinator.
- Take a photo and share it on the iNaturalist Great Alaska Pollinator Challenge (see back page for more info)

Discover some of the many pollinators that provide ecological services to the plants at the GBG



Bumble Bees - *Bombus* sp. (Bomb · buss - Spee · seas) are some of the most important pollinators in Alaska. Bumble bees are extremely efficient pollinators because of their large body size, dense feathery hairs, and specialized legs that can store clumps of pollen. Bumble bee tongues are almost as long as their bodies, which means that they can drink nectar from even the deepest flowers. There are approximately 27 *Bombus* species in Alaska. 0.5 - 1" long



Macculloch's Forester - *Androloma maccullochii* (Ann · droh · low · muh - Mack · you · low · chee · eye) is a small moth with distinct white spots and fuzzy orange legs. This moth can be found flying during the day, which is unlike most moths that only fly in the evening. You can find Macculloch's Forester on warm sunny days fluttering in tall grassy fields. 0.5 - 0.75" total length



Flower Fly - *Parasyrphus tarsatus* (Pair · uh · sir · fuss - Tar · saa · tuss), also known as Syrphidae (sir · fid) flies, are wasp and bee mimicking pollinators. This species is mimicking a common yellow jacket. You can tell that this is a fly, and not a wasp, by the short antennae and large eyes. These flies are harmless - they lack a stinger and are not aggressive. Syrphidae flies are common pollinators that can be found on most flowers. In the early summer you can find several flower flies hovering over dandelion fields. 0.3 - 0.4" total length



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail - *Papilio canadensis* (Puh · pil · ee · oh - Can · uh · den · siss) is one of Alaska's largest butterflies. They are common throughout Canada and Alaska. Here in the state, their populations are most concentrated south of the Brooke's Mountain Range and north of Southeast Alaska (the Alaskan Panhandle). You can find these butterflies drinking nectar from most large flowering trees and shrubs, such as lilac bushes and crabapple trees. 2.5 - 4" wingspan



European Honeybee - *Apis mellifera* (Aye · piss - Meh · liff · err · uh) is a non-native species that was first brought to the U.S. in the 1600s for honey production. Since then, these bees have become popular pollinators for hobbyists, gardeners, and farmers across the country. This illustration of a honey bee demonstrates how bees use their tongues to drink water from shallow pools. On warm sunny days you might find honeybees gathering at the garden pond for a quick sip! 0.4 - 0.6" total length