**Project Manager Qualifications:**

**Dr. Rob Blair** is a Professor of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota. Currently, he is the principal investigator of a National Science Foundation-funded project that examines how citizen-science projects can be used as a springboard to authentic scientific inquiry by secondary students. He also coordinates the research and work of the LCCMR funded Minnesota Native Bee Atlas. In Minnesota Nature Trackers, he will hire and oversee the full-time Program Coordinator who will be responsible for working as a liaison between researchers and citizen science volunteers and a part-time data scientist who will work with the large amounts of data generated by citizen science projects and develop best practices for data storage.

**Andrea Lorek Strauss** is an Extension Professor at the University of Minnesota and a co-PI on the citizen science NSF administered by Blair (see above) where her role is to coordinate curriculum development and outreach. Strauss is actively involved in citizen science at the national level, serving as co-chair of the Education Working Group of the Citizen Science Association. She chaired the event CitSciMN: A Symposium for Citizen Science Practitioners in Minnesota and is the lead coordinator for the City Nature Challenge citizen science event in Minnesota.

**Organization Descriptions:**

**University of Minnesota Extension** – The University of Minnesota Extension discovers science‐based solutions, delivers practical education and engages Minnesotans to build a better future. Extension researchers and educators engage individuals and organizations in asking the challenging questions to discover science‐based answers that make a difference. UMN Extension is a leader in citizen science in Minnesota, providing engagement and educational opportunities for both citizen scientists and project managers through signature events such as the City Nature Challenge and CitSciMN: A Symposium for Citizen Science Professionals in Minnesota.

**Minnesota Master Naturalist** ‐‐ The mission of the Master Naturalist program is to promote awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well‐ informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities. It does this by offering a 40‐hour baseline class on one of the three major biomes of Minnesota, which introduces the participants to the natural history of the region, teaches them about communicating with the public, and coaches them to become volunteers. The graduates of this course go on to offer 40 hours of volunteer service per year areas and take at least 8 hours of advanced training per year.

**Minnesota Dragonfly Society** – The Minnesota Dragonfly Society grew out of the Minnesota Odonata Survey, created to fill in critical gaps in distribution records of dragonflies and damselflies. They continue to complete surveys and educate Minnesotans.

**Forest First Pest Detector** – FFPD volunteers are trained to quickly detect and diagnose early infestations of emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, Japanese barberry, Oriental bittersweet and other pests, so that state and federal agencies can control the spread.

**Minnesota Wild Bee Atlas** – The Minnesota Wild Bee Atlas relies on volunteers to follow one of three protocol areas to study the diversity and distribution of native bees in Minnesota.

**Minnesota Biodiversity Atlas** -- Created by the Bell Museum, the Minnesota Biodiversity Atlas is an online, searchable interface integrating data from the Bell Museum on birds, mammals, fishes, plants, and fungi.