The Missouri River corridor includes the river channel, the associated floodplain, wetlands, and bluffs. This region consists of a mixture of riparian and upland deciduous forests, and tall- and mixedgrass prairies. The Missouri River runs approximately 2,320 miles from the headwaters in Montana to where it converges with the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri. A 400-mile stretch of the Missouri River borders eastern Nebraska, running from the South Dakota boarder to the Kansas border, separating the state of Nebraska from Iowa.

The Missouri River has undergone many changes throughout the 20th century. Where the river once freely meandered across a vast floodplain, channelization, dams, conversion of wetlands, and development of structures and agriculture fields have transformed this region. Even so, the Missouri River corridor provides habitat not readily found throughout the rest of the state and allows for the success of some species in Nebraska whose geographic ranges are limited to this region.

**Mammals of the Missouri River Corridor**

**Tracks**

**Eastern Cottontail**
- Length: f 1 - 1.5 in., h 3 - 3.5 in.
- Width: f 0.8 - 1.3 in., h 1 - 1.5 in.
- Stride: 6 - 36 in. (hopping)

**Beaver**
- Length: f 2 - 3.2 in., h 5 - 7 in.
- Width: f 2 - 3.5 in., h 3.3 - 5 in.
- Stride: 3 - 6.5 in. (walking)

**Coyote**
- Length: 2 - 3.2 in.
- Width: 1.4 - 2.4 in.
- Stride: 8 - 16 in. (walking)

**Bobcat**
- Length: 1.8 - 2.5 in.
- Width: 1.8 - 2.5 in.
- Stride: 8 - 16 in. (walking)

**White-tailed Deer**
- Length: 2 - 3.4 in.
- Width: 1.6 - 2.5 in.
- Stride: 10 - 22 in. (walking)

**Mammal Viewing Tips**

- **Mammals can be difficult to see due to their secretive nature.**
- **1. Stay quiet and calm.**
- **2. Be discreet** — wear muted clothing and limit fragrances.
- **3. Look for signs** — tracks and scat can tell you if a mammal is in the area, even when you don’t see them.
- **4. Use binoculars** to get a closer look. Always keep a respectful distance from wildlife.
- **5. Be patient.**
- **6. Go to where the habitat is** — visit state parks and other public lands.
- **7. Do your homework** — learn what species of mammals live in the area.

**Prints Not to Scale**

OutdoorNebraska.org

NEBRASKA
GAME PARKS

Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Endowment Project
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Size:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
<th>Diet:</th>
<th>Habitat:</th>
<th>Viewing:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Brown Bat</td>
<td>Eptesicus fuscus</td>
<td>L: 4.3 - 5.1 in., W: 17 - 23 g.</td>
<td>Tan-brown body, black and hairless face, wings, and tail. Females are larger than males.</td>
<td>Insects</td>
<td>Rural to urban</td>
<td>Year-round (hibernating November - April), statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Fox Squirrel</td>
<td>Sciurus niger</td>
<td>L: 18.0 - 27.5 in., W: 1.5 - 2.7 lbs.</td>
<td>Fur is gray on back and buffy red on belly, bushy tail, sharp climbing claws and small ears.</td>
<td>Plants, seeds, insects, birds and eggs</td>
<td>Rural to urban</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide but limited by treed habitats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cottontail</td>
<td>Sylvilagus floridanus</td>
<td>L: 15.6 - 18.8 in., W: 1.8 - 3.4 lbs.</td>
<td>Buff-brown fur, some black/grey hair tips, rufous patch on back of neck and white. Large eyes, long ears, powerful hind legs and short puffy brown and white tail.</td>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Rural to urban</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Mink</td>
<td>Mustela vison</td>
<td>L: 12 - 18 in., W: 0.88 - 3.5 lbs.</td>
<td>Long, narrow body with flat head and pointed snout. Small eyes and rounded ears.</td>
<td>Small animals</td>
<td>Riparian woodlands and wetlands</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Beaver</td>
<td>Castor canadensis</td>
<td>L: 36 - 52 in., W: 34 - 64 lbs.</td>
<td>Large, semi-aquatic rodent, dark brown fur, short front legs with large claws, webbed hind feet, orange teeth and long, flat scaly tail.</td>
<td>Bark, leaves, aquatic vegetation</td>
<td>Areas with slow-moving fresh water</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskrat</td>
<td>Ondatra zibethicus</td>
<td>L: 16.0 - 25.5 in., W: 2.5 - 3.5 lbs.</td>
<td>Semi-aquatic rodent with dark brown head, coloring gets lighter moving down sides and back. Partly webbed hind toes and long, nearly hairless tail.</td>
<td>Cattails, aquatic vegetation</td>
<td>Shallow water, wetlands</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Weasel</td>
<td>Mustela frenata</td>
<td>L: 11.0 - 18.5 in., W: 85 - 340 g.</td>
<td>Long, narrow body. Fur is brown with buffy belly in the summer. Turns white in the winter.</td>
<td>Small animals</td>
<td>Open fields and woodlands near water</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raccoon</td>
<td>Procyon lotor</td>
<td>L: 24 - 38 in., W: 7.6 - 20.0 lbs.</td>
<td>Stout gray-brown with black mask and rings on bushy tail. Pointed face, dexterous front paws to feel and grasp food.</td>
<td>Small animals, fruit, garbage</td>
<td>Rural to urban</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Fox</td>
<td>Vulpus vulpus</td>
<td>L: 18 - 35.4 in., W: 6.5 - 24 lbs.</td>
<td>Fur light to deep red/brown, triangle face and ears, dark nose, eyes, and legs/feet. Bushy tail often with a white tip.</td>
<td>Small mammals, insects, seeds and fruit</td>
<td>Rural to urban</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coyote</td>
<td>Canis latrans</td>
<td>L: 48 - 53 in., W: 15 - 46 lbs.</td>
<td>Gray-brown fur above, whiter below. Triangular ears, black nose and bushy tail.</td>
<td>Various animals and some plants</td>
<td>Various, rural to urban</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobcat</td>
<td>Lynx rufus</td>
<td>L: 30 - 48 in., W: 11 - 30 lbs.</td>
<td>Varied brown fur with darker speckle/spotting, tufted ears, large paws, and short, bobbed tail.</td>
<td>Animals, mainly small prey</td>
<td>Various, forest to fields</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-tailed Deer</td>
<td>Sylvilagus floridanus</td>
<td>L: 63 - 86.6 in., W: 115 - 300 lbs.</td>
<td>Red-brown fur, white under throat, body and tail. Long legs, short tail. Males have antlers.</td>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>Fields, woods, farmlands</td>
<td>Year-round, statewide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>