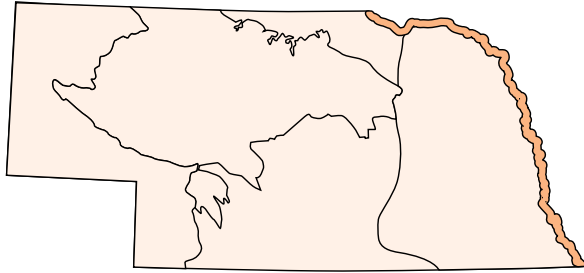


Missouri River Corridor



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 border 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.



Reptile and Amphibian Viewing Tips

1. **Stay quiet and calm.**
2. **Use binoculars** to get a closer look while keeping a respectful distance from wildlife.
3. **Wash your hands before handling** — especially important for amphibians such as frogs, toads and salamanders.
4. **Be patient.**
5. **Go to where the habitat is** — visit state parks and other public lands.
6. **Do your homework** — learn what species live in the area.
7. **Leave no trace** — leave wildlife in nature and nature the way you found it.



Reptiles and Amphibians of the Missouri River Corridor

Reptiles

Have scales, plates or shields.

Born by hatching from eggs or through live birth.

Lay eggs in the ground.

Breathe using lungs.



plains garter snake

Amphibians

Generally have moist, smooth skin.

Born as eggs and go through metamorphosis.

Lay eggs near or in water.

Breathe using lungs, gills or through skin.



tiger salamander



Identification Guide

NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

OutdoorNebraska.org



Woodhouse's Toad

Anaxyrus woodhousii

Size: L: 2 - 5 in.

Description: Bumpy toad with light gray-tan, variable spotting, white back stripe, and white under with single dark spot on chest.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Variable

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



American Toad

Anaxyrus americanus

Size: L: 2.0 - 4.3 in.

Description: Dry, warty skin brown with red to green tones. White belly with dark spots.

Diet: Worms

Habitat: Riparian woodlands

Viewing: Spring-fall, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, and Cass counties



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Cope's Tree Frog

Hyla chrysoscelis

Size: L: 1.0 - 2.4 in.

Description: Skin mottled gray, bright green and tan. Long hind legs with yellow-orange inner thighs. Sticky pads at end of toes.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Woodlands near water

Viewing: Spring-fall, eastern quarter, central along Platte River



Bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeianus

Size: L: 3.5 - 8.0 in.

Description: Olive to lime green with some darker mottling, long hind legs, lighter belly.

Diet: Insects and worms

Habitat: Invasive, permanent ponds, lakes, etc.

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Western Tiger Salamander

Ambystoma mavortium

Size: L: 6.0 - 8.5 in.

Description: Dark with smooth slimy skin with yellow barring, short legs and a wide mouth.

Diet: Insects and worms

Habitat: Water or small mammal burrows

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Smallmouth Salamander

Ambystoma texanum

Size: L: 3.9 - 5.5 in.

Description: Smooth and slimy skin, olive green-brown in color with gray-bronze speckling. Small head and mouth.

Diet: Insects

Habitat: Moist woodlands and prairies

Viewing: Year-round, south Douglas down through Richardson counties



Six-lined Racerunner

Aspidoscelis sexlineta

Size: L: 6.0 - 10.5 in.

Description: Brown to bright green with 6 - 8 lines running length of body, long tail, hind legs and toes.

Diet: Insects, snails

Habitat: Dry grassland and woodland edges

Viewing: Late spring-early fall, statewide except west half of Panhandle



Fox Snake

Mintonius vulpinus

Size: L: 23.6 - 70.5 in.

Description: Yellowish-gray to brown, often with dark blotches down back. Checkerboard patterned belly.

Diet: Small mammals

Habitat: Grasslands, woodlands

Viewing: Spring-fall, statewide



Black Rat Snake

Scotophis obsoletus

Size: L: 39 - 84 in.

Description: Black back with pale belly that sometimes has a checkerboard pattern. Young are pale with dark blotches.

Diet: Eggs and small animals

Habitat: Rural to urban, where suitable habitat found

Viewing: Spring-fall, extreme east and southeast



Dekay's Brownsnake

Storeria dekayi

Size: L: 9 - 15 in.

Description: Brown with red or gray tones, pale belly. May have dark dots or stripes down back.

Diet: Snails, worms and insects

Habitat: Rural to urban, where suitable habitat found

Viewing: Spring-fall, east and southeast



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False Map Turtle

Graptemys pseudogeographica

Size: L: 3.5 - 11.0 in. (shell)

Description: Head, neck and front legs with yellow stripes. Shell is olive green to brown with dorsal ridges on top, yellow underside.

Diet: Aquatic insects and fish

Habitat: Large rivers

Viewing: Spring-fall, extreme east



Smooth Softshell Turtle

Apalone mutica

Size: L: 3.2 - 14.5 in. (shell)

Description: Soft, leather-like olive colored shell, tubular nose and pale stripe behind eye.

Diet: Worms, aquatic insects, fish, some grain and fruit

Habitat: Large rivers and lakes

Viewing: Spring-fall, east