

## **Spotted Skunks** *Spilogle putorius*

**Habitat Preference:** Spotted skunks prefer savanna habitat; areas with a combination of trees and grassland. They need rocky areas with coarse soils. Spotted skunks use the rocky areas as dens sites.



Photo Courtesy Mammals of Kansas  
[www.ku.edu/~mammals](http://www.ku.edu/~mammals)

### **Threats:**

- Spotted skunks were widely distributed throughout the state until 20-30 years ago. Since that time populations have declined.
- Spotted Skunks were attracted to old barns and corn cribs for artificial dens and an abundance of rodents; many of these buildings have been removed or are no longer being maintained.

### **Appropriate Practices:**

- Create rock piles to be used as dens.
- Maintain mature trees and hollow logs in areas with rocky out cropping or coarse sandy soil.
- Maintain brushy fence lines and other corridors between larger tracts of habitat.
- Include hay in crop rotations.