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## Skunks cause a stink at NKU

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**HIGHLAND HEIGHTS** - Skunks are causing a stink at Northern Kentucky University.

Students have encountered the potentially smelly rodents in parking lots, around buildings and on ball fields.

"The skunks have caused considerable damage to our turf where they dig for grub worms and in the process leave large holes and tracks," said Todd Asalon, NKU's head baseball coach.

Bill Moulton, NKU's superintendent of horticulture, roads and grounds and transportation, said there's a simple reason for the rise in skunk sightings.

"There has been some construction in the surrounding areas," Moulton said. "This is probably why there is an increase in the number of skunks in the campus area. The other reason is wherever there are people there is food that they can eat."

Moulton said NKU is taking the necessary steps to avoid a student or staff member from being sprayed.

"Northern Kentucky University is doing everything possible to keep our campus population safe from the problems related to the skunks," he said. "We use safe traps that do not harm the skunk or threaten them in any way. By doing this in this manner the skunk does not spray. The animal is very carefully move to a wooded undisturbed area and released."

Asalon helps keep the skunks off his fields where an inconveniently dug hole can lead to a player's injury.

"My role is to put out the Havahart trap at the end of the day on the baseball field and then the skunks are removed the next morning if caught," he said. "We want to relocate the skunks to their natural surroundings on campus where they are safe and have less of a chance to engage with our students and staff."

Moulton said this capture and release technique is all the can do.

"Unfortunately there is not a lot we can do to stop a skunk from wandering on campus, but if people see one the best thing to do is to move slowly the other direction. Don't startle them. Beware if you see their tail go straight up."

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