

# STAY SAFE DURING HUNTING SEASON

Hunting is not allowed on the County owned portion of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail but we would like to share the following tips for trail users during hunting season which extends through March.

## GET EDUCATED

Specific dates for hunting season vary year to year and also by type of game hunted and weapon used. Please check the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website ([wildlife.ohiodnr.gov](http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov)) for specific hunting dates.

## WEAR BLAZE ORANGE

Wear a fluorescent or “blaze” orange hat and vest (and pack cover if backpacking), or a hooded outerwear when hiking. Blaze orange will help distinguish you from wild game. If you hike with a dog, it should also wear blaze orange visible from all sides. Pets are to be leashed at all times while utilizing the trails.

## USE EXTRA CAUTION AT DAWN AND DUSK

The trails are open to the public from dawn to dusk. Hunting activity may increase at dawn and dusk, when animals are feeding and visibility is poor. Wear reflective vests or use a headlamp or flashlight for extra visibility.

## USE EXTRA CAUTION NEAR ROADS & IN VALLEYS

Be especially cautious within ½ mile of road crossing (both approaching and leaving) and in valley areas.

## BE HEARD

Make noise and make yourself known. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence. Sound carries well across open fields and valleys, and hunters should be listening for any sounds of animal movement. If you do hear shooting, raise your voice and let hunters know that you are in the vicinity.

## KNOW YOUR OWN COMFORT LEVEL

If the idea of hiking during any hunting season makes you uneasy, choose a hike in a location where hunting is not allowed.

*The preceding Safety tips do not warrant that all, or any, potential hazards have been identified or evaluated, nor that adherence to these tips will prevent injury or harm. Tuscarawas County assumes no liability for such information or lack of information.*