The Fall Creek and Cascadilla gorges frame the Cornell campus to the north and south—distinguishing the campus’ natural beauty, while providing unique opportunities to study geology and the ecology of remarkably different habitats within and around the gorges. Trails built in the gorges allow us to explore and enjoy the stunning landscapes safely.

The gorges are beautiful, but dangerous too

- Respect and use the gorges safely
- Many people have been injured or killed through the misuse of the gorges and failure to pay attention to posted warning signs and gorge safety rules
- Risks of falling from gorge rims, being hit by falling rocks, and drowning in dangerous streams are always present
- Stay out of the gorges if you are under the influence of alcohol or other substances
- Be familiar with the gorge rules listed on the next page and remember to obey them

Tour Fall Creek Gorge, Cascadilla Gorge or around Beebe Lake with your mobile device. Download “Pocketsights Tour Guide” from the App Store or Google Play. Scroll to select your desired tour.

gorgesafety.cornell.edu
GORGE REGULATIONS

• Do not leave marked trails
• Walking in restricted areas creates an imminent risk of falling from cliffs or being hit by falling rocks
• Swimming is prohibited
• Streams in the gorges have dangerous, hidden currents and people have drowned in them
• Violations of these safety rules may jeopardize your life and the lives of rescue workers and result in your arrest and prosecution
• Use of alcohol or other substances increases all of the dangers outlined here
• Bicycles are prohibited
• Hike only on lighted trails after dark—cliff edges are closer than they look and it is easy to become disoriented in the dark
• Do not use trails that are closed in the winter

Be aware of:
• Cliff edges
• Falling rocks and trees
• Hazardous trail surfaces

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL: 607-255-1111

“The even as a highly trained, properly equipped professional diver, I wouldn’t swim there if I did not have to recover a body.”
—Sgt. Scott Salino, Cornell Police rescue diver

The Nathaniel Rand ’12 Memorial Gorge Safety Education Program, Cornell University’s gorge safety educational effort, is named in memory of a student who died in a gorge drowning accident in July 2011.

The program’s goal is to prevent future tragedies by informing visitors about safe and responsible use of the gorges.

The program currently includes educational initiatives such as the gorge stewards, orientation hikes for new students, educational programming for orientation leaders and residence advisors, a gorge safety website and video, and this brochure.

About Cornell Botanic Gardens

Fall Creek and Cascadilla gorges and their trails are part of 3,700 acres of natural areas, both on-campus and throughout the region, managed by Cornell Botanic Gardens in support of Cornell’s academic mission.

For more information, visit cornellbotanicgardens.org.