



F. ROBERT WESLEY

Eddy Dam Bridge on the Upper Cascadilla Gorge Trail



Gorge stewards lead weekly tours and hike the gorges daily to provide information about trails, safety rules, natural history, activities, and swimming alternatives.

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 Plantations

Fall Creek and Cascadilla gorges and their trails are part of 3,400 acres of natural areas, both on-campus and throughout the region, managed by Cornell Plantations in support of Cornell's academic mission.



Students hiking on Fall Creek Gorge



Bridge in Cascadilla Gorge

## Cornell Gorge Trail Map and Safety Information

# GORGES

### The Nathaniel Rand '12 Memorial Gorge Safety Education Program

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.

Please respect and use the gorges safely.

Along with their beauty, the gorges hold potential danger. The natural forces of wind, water, and ice that sculpted these unique landscapes are always at work. Rocks continue to fall from cliff sides and stream currents are strong, though they often don't appear to be. Many people have been injured or killed through the misuse of the gorges, but most of these incidents could have been avoided by paying close attention to the safety guidelines for the gorges.



Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We're a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities. Produced by University Communications at Cornell University. Photography by University Photography, cover photo by F. Robert Wesley. 7/14 18M FLP



Cornell University

[gorgesafety.cornell.edu](http://gorgesafety.cornell.edu)

Cover: Forest Falls in Fall Creek Gorge

## LIKE TO HIKE?



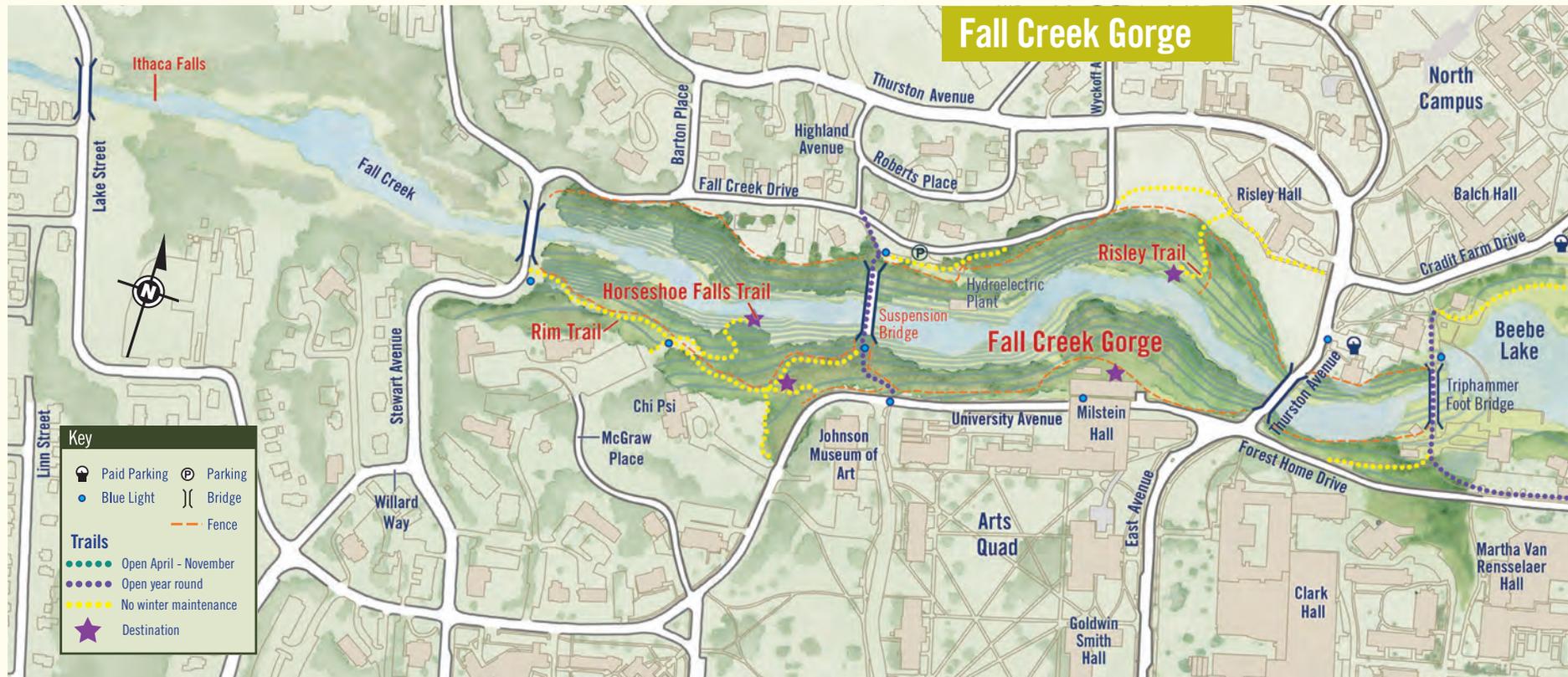
Scan here for more trails around campus



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*“These waters are extremely dangerous and are filled with entangling debris. Several undercuts exist near the base of the falls, where bodies are typically recovered. 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



Trail around Beebe Lake

## Fall Creek Gorge Trails

Fall Creek Gorge begins west of Beebe Lake, and ends after spilling over 150-foot-high Ithaca Falls near Lake Street in downtown Ithaca. You can experience the steep gorge and its forested, rocky slopes from five trails. The Risley Trail and the Horseshoe Falls Trail follow steps down to viewing areas at creek level. The Rim Trail and the pedestrian suspension bridge offer stunning views of the gorge. The Triphammer Foot Bridge offers a bird’s-eye view of Triphammer Falls below. Though the trails are open year round, only a small portion is maintained during winter.

## GORGE REGULATIONS

- Stay on trails or within designated areas. Bicycles are prohibited on gorge trails
- Swimming is prohibited
- Do not walk on closed trails or other restricted areas marked by fences, gates and railings
- Violators are subject to arrest
- Use of alcohol increases all of the dangers outlined in this brochure
- Violation of these safety guidelines may place you and/or rescue workers in danger

### For your safety

- Hike only on lighted trails after dark
- Use caution on trails not maintained during winter

### Be aware of

- Cliff edges
- Falling rocks and trees
- Hazardous trail surfaces

**FOR EMERGENCIES CALL: 607-255-1111**



## Cascadilla Gorge Trail

Running from College Avenue in Collegetown to Linn Street in downtown Ithaca, this trail descends 400 feet, past several picturesque waterfalls within a deeply cut gorge. The trail is closed during winter.

## Upper Cascadilla Gorge Trail

This trail is accessible from seven entry points, and follows Cascadilla Creek along a gentler grade, offering an easy hike. Eddy Dam Bridge crosses over a scenic waterfall at the trail’s east end. The trail is open year round, but only a small portion is maintained during winter.

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