

Cornell Botanic Gardens

Cornell Botanic Gardens is the university's arboretum, botanical garden, and natural areas, and is open to the university community and visitors for their enjoyment and study. Cornell Botanic Gardens is used as an outdoor laboratory in connection with numerous academic courses and as a facility for graduate research projects. Its 4,100 acres, some of which lie along the steep, magnificent Cascadilla and Fall Creek gorges bordering the university, contribute to making Cornell's campus one of the most beautiful in the United States. Within Cornell Botanic Gardens are trails that go through the arboretum and botanical garden, and along Beebe Lake, ponds, streams, swamps, and woodlands. Variety of terrain, elevation, and soil type permits such diversity as alpine and wetland collections, many specialty gardens, and woodland and wildflower collections.

Visitors can enjoy a pleasant drive or walk, learn about native and ornamental plants, and explore their kinship with the earth. Listings of special events and evening courses held throughout the year are available at www.plantations.cornell.edu. Group tours can be arranged by calling (607) 255-2400, but at least three weeks advance notice must be given.

The Cornell Botanic Gardens is a unit of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and is managed by a director. There is also a 24-member Advisory Council, and a staff of about 50 employees. Because Cornell Botanic Gardens receives less than a fifth of its income from the university, it depends upon contributions from generous members as well as outside grants for its support. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset, free of charge. General information is available in the Garden Gift Shop at the Cornell Botanic Gardens Lewis Building from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays, and on weekends (hours vary with the season). Tour booklets are available. Picnics are permitted, but visitors should inquire about regulations. The general rule for use of the Cornell Botanic Gardens is that only pictures should be taken and only footprints left.