

# Geology of the War Eagle Valley Loop Trail

## Trail Description

Like many of the trails in the park, this trail starts at the top of a ridge and works its way down in elevation to the creek. Chert fragments are abundant along the trail until you get to the overlook for War Eagle Creek.

**Stop 1:** You have made it to the top of the St. Joe Limestone. A small bluff of limestone borders the creek. This is a good location to view the bluff from above looking downstream. From this location work your way down to the creek level at Stop 2.

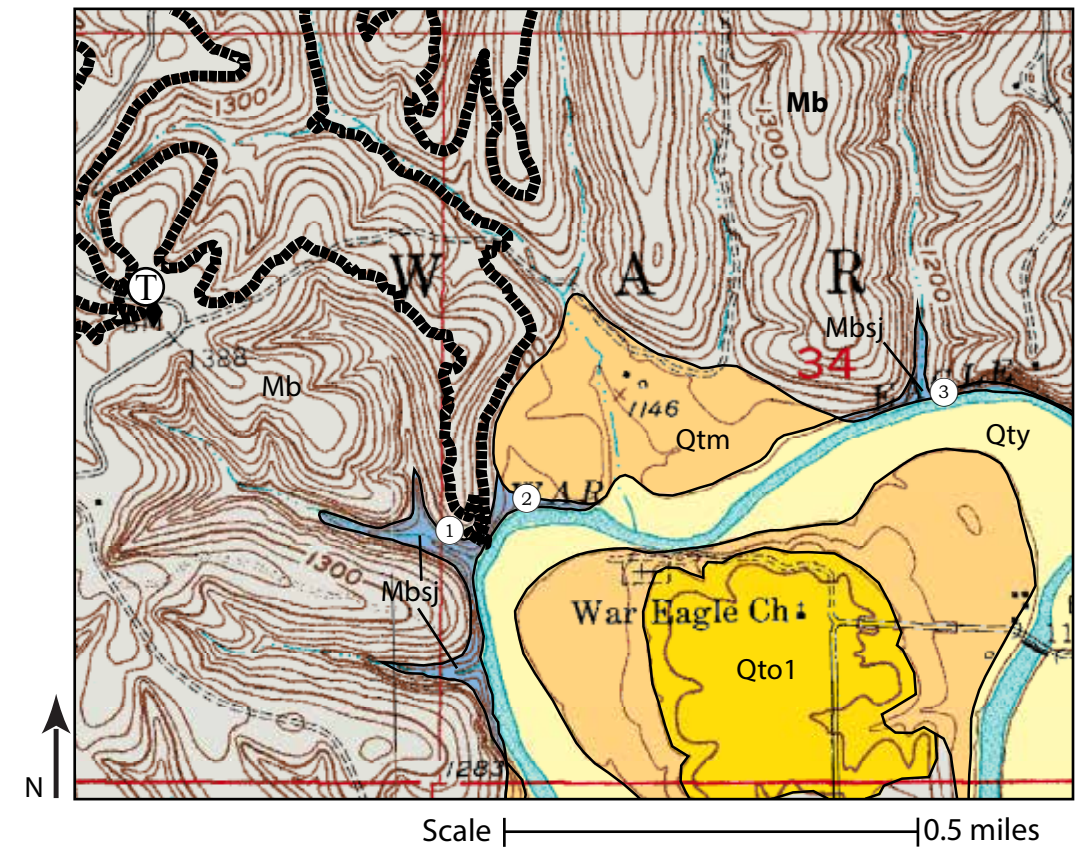
**Stop 2:** This is a good spot to get a close look at the limestone. Notice the white round crinoid columnals. These marine animals were abundant in the Mississippian seas. If the creek is low enough, you can even see the Chattanooga Shale below the limestone. This black shale is Devonian in age unlike the limestone above which is Mississippian in age. The black shale contains abundant joints or fractures. Also notice that pieces of the shale were ripped up and incorporated in the limestone as it was deposited.

If you have time, walk east along the edge of the field upstream to Stop 3. Otherwise head back the way you came or hike the loop back to the beginning.



Stop 2. Chattanooga Shale (black) below St. Joe Limestone.

- Qty Youngest terrace
  - Qtm Medial terrace
  - Qto1 Old terrace
  - Mb Boone Formation
  - Mbsj St. Joe Limestone
  - 1 T Trail stop and Trailhead
  - War Eagle Loop
- Contour interval = 20 feet



**Stop 3:** Continue to walk out of the field onto the rock ledge above the creek. You are walking along the top of the St. Joe Limestone and near the contact with the Boone Formation. This becomes more obvious as you approach the bluff. Notice the difference in weathering of the rock near creek level and the shear bluff above.

Enjoy this location before returning to the War Eagle Valley Loop Trail.



Stop 3. St. Joe Limestone below Boone bluffs along War Eagle Creek.



Stop 1. View from overlook to War Eagle Creek.



Stop 2. St. Joe Limestone with crinoid columnals and shale fragments.

