



Geologic Map of the Mountain City Quadrangle

A geologic map of the Mountain City Quadrangle is being prepared by a researcher at The University of Texas at Austin (UT). The map is a volunteer effort – the geologist is not being paid, but does receive non-monetary support from UT and other entities.

What is a geologic map?

The map shows the bedrock geology – the general composition (lithology) and the structure of the rock strata, particularly the faults. Mapping is done on a topographic base map, which shows contours, streams, roads, and other cultural features.

What are the rocks in this area?

Most of the bedrock in the quadrangle consists of limestones that were deposited in an ancient sea. Many fossils can be found in the rocks, including pelecypods (clams) and gastropods (snails). The sediments that became the limestones were deposited in the Cretaceous period. Caves and sinkholes are common in the Mountain City quadrangle. The bedrock strata have been highly disturbed by faults of the Balcones Fault Zone.

How is the mapping done?

The geologist uses several standard methods to create the map, along with new techniques not previously available. Mapping is primarily done on aerial photos with many ground checks of outcrops to verify the rocks. New methods, such as LIDAR, which is a remote sensing technology based on laser ranging measurements, are also used.

How can you help?

Field geologists need to look at the rock outcrops to verify their mapping on the air photos. Many times, landowners are willing to allow them access to their property to look at the rocks, which is a non-intrusive effort. If they desire, helpful landowners will receive a copy of the map when it is done.

Who is working on the project?

The mapping is being done primarily by a UT geologist. Library, photocopy and other support are provided by the Jackson School of Geosciences and the Energy Institute.

What is the contact information?

The geologist working on the Mountain City mapping project may be contacted as shown below.

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Please call or email for more information.

(A miniature map of the Mountain City quadrangle is shown on the other side.)



Mountain City Quadrangle (Miniature Map)

Salt Lick
BBQ

