caused a displacement from one side to the other. The side you are walking on is the mid to upper Bloyd, but on the other side of the creek, the fault has exposed lower and older Bloyd units. You can see this difference all along the last part of the trail.

The Devil’s Den Trail is full of many different geological features that are very fascinating. Take your time to enjoy this trail and the beauties that it holds.

Geology of Devil’s Den Trail

Lee Creek

The Devil’s Chimney

Beckie Moore
When you start out on this trail, you are walking on what is called the Bloyd Formation. There are many small rocks alongside the path on the first part of this trail. After walking for about five minutes, to the left is the Devil’s Theatre. This is an area of large sandstone boulders that resemble in a way a theatre setting. Inside these boulders there are many small crevices that are a small sample of what is further up the trail.

As you leave the Devil’s Theatre area, you will walk for about another five minutes until you come to a hillside. To the left of this hillside notice that you are headed toward more larger boulders. As you climb this hill look at the stones beneath your feet. About halfway up there are some smaller stones that resemble a turtle shell. They are called iron stones and have rectangular shapes on them from weathering. These stones also have a faint red color along the edge from the iron oxide. Even though these stones are found in the Bloyd Formation, they were originally from the Atoka Formation, which is on the top of the hill. This tells us that these stones have slide out of place.

Once you reach the top of this hill you come to another switchback to the left. Before you climb this hill look to you right and you will see many stones which are called float boulders. These boulders have slide down the hill due to what is called slumping in which they have been undercut. Notice though the

Continue down the trail and you come to the Twin Falls. Notice behind the falls, there is a large amount of shale. The falls are coming off of the sandstone above but the trail lies on shale formation. This

The trail then goes back down to the Bloyd Formation along Lee Creek. Down here the stones get smaller just as at the beginning of the trail. Lee Creek itself has an interesting feature in it. There
Massive stone with the Bear Cave underneath

To the left of these large boulders is a bluff that looks as if it has been hollowed out. If you look up to the roof of this bluff, you can see swirls. Water once flowed in the roof of this cavity until it broke apart. These circle areas are called the Bowls.

On this same bluff to the left of these bowls, you can find the point at which the top has broken off and slid down. You can see a gap between the two rocks and can clearly find a line that matches to the top of the bluff with the boulder that has fallen.

That did not move. This formation is called The Devil’s Chimney. Legends have said that you can see smoke rising from this point.

Once you start the climb up the next hill, you are now in the Atoka Formation. Here to your right is the entrance to the Devil’s Den Cave which the park was named after. The entrance is surrounded by large sandstone bluffs that are also composed in some parts of Fissile which is a clay like material that is common close to a Delta Region. You can see some of this above the cave to the right. It will look softer than the rest of the rock.

As you walk past the cave about twenty feet up on the right is a formation that looks like a set of steps. This is called parting because of the water flow through these stones. A little further from that is another formation where you can see the Bedding Plane.
As you begin to walk further down the trail, notice that the dirt starts to get more of an orange color. This is made up of clays with a significant amount of iron oxide in them. When it is wet, it is very thick and hard to get off of shoes. To the right of this is a very large right angle crevice. This crevice was formed from a fracture and the water has played a part in enlarging it. It is very cool on the inside and you can find what is called Kessler Sandstone and even some boulders that have broke off and fallen to the bottom. In this crevice, there is a passage that can take you to the Devil’s Ice Box.

As you continue going down the trail, you will come to a set of rocks that act as a staircase, you are now in front of the entrance to the Devil’s Ice Box. This is the 2nd most popular cave in the park. In this cave, there is not total darkness due to the openings in the ceiling. If you stand in the front of the entrance you will feel the cool air coming out. Even though this feels like the coolest cave, it is the most warmest. The hot air comes through these openings and out the main entrance giving it a chill.

From this point on to the Falls, there are very large sandstone bluffs along the trail. There are some that are out of place because they have either broken off and fallen or because they have slid from their original spot. The easiest way to tell if you are looking at float boulders, is if they are angled. Rocks do not form angled, they are formed horizontally. So if any stones are angled, then they have slid from where they were made. A couple of minutes after you leave the Devil’s Ice Box, you come to a valley area that is full of very large boulders like this. They are in a big pile to the right of the trail. Next to them is a very massive boulder that resembles a ship’s stern. This boulder is covered with moss. If you look at the bottom you can see the undercutting of it. This area is the Bear Cave (there are many similar areas in the park).