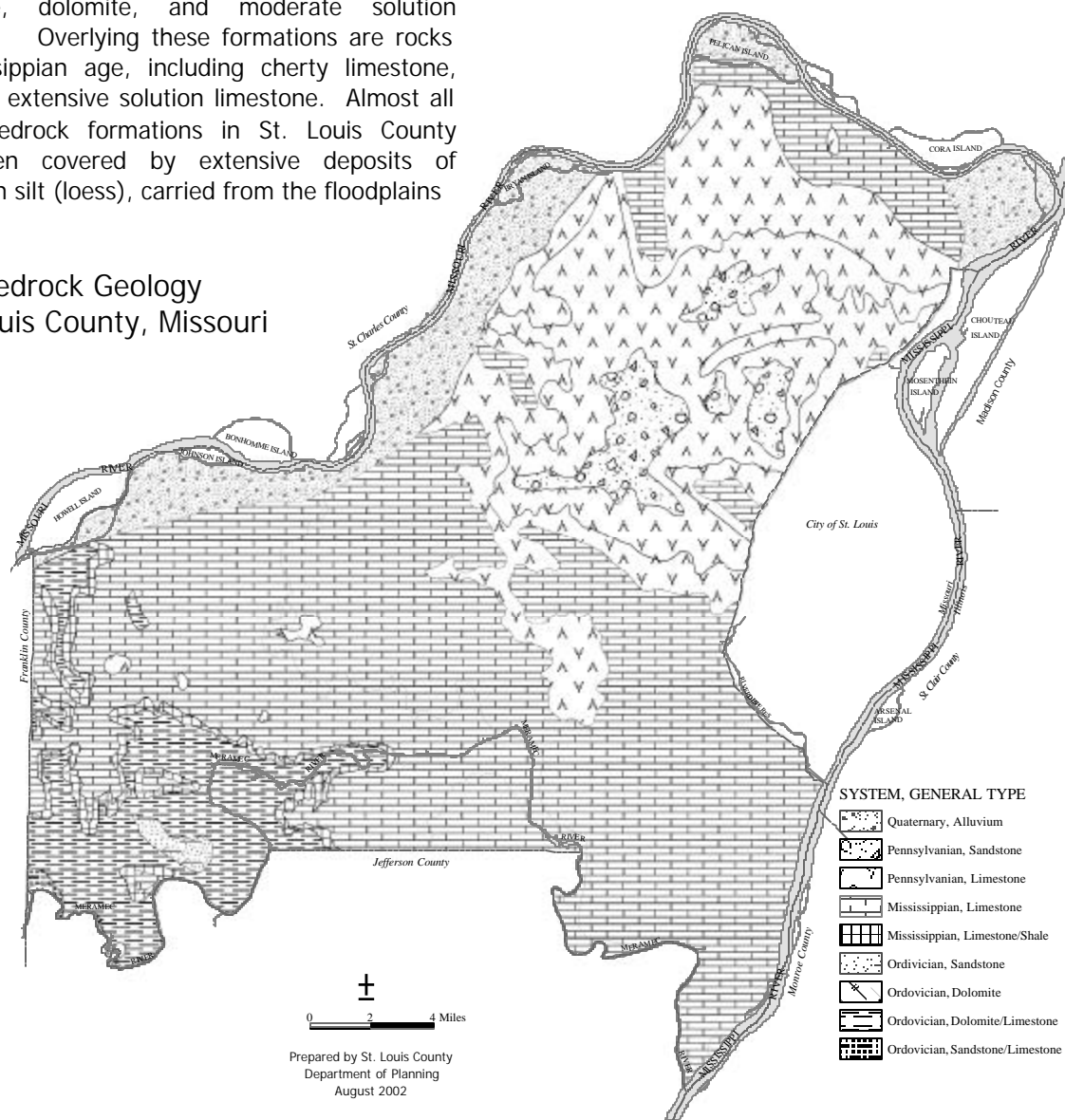


Geologic Formations

St. Louis County lies at the northeast tip of the Ozark Uplift and is bordered on the north and east by areas altered by glaciers. The bedrock underlying the County consists of essentially flat-lying sedimentary formations, mostly limestone. Bedrock formations exposed in St. Louis County represent three separate geologic systems, the Ordovician, Mississippian and Pennsylvanian, each of which was formed at a different interval of time in the earth's history. The Ordovician rocks include (from oldest to youngest) massive sandstone, dolomite, and moderate solution limestone. Overlying these formations are rocks of Mississippian age, including cherty limestone, shale and extensive solution limestone. Almost all of the bedrock formations in St. Louis County have been covered by extensive deposits of windblown silt (loess), carried from the floodplains

of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and deposited on the upland during post-glacial time. Residual clays formed in place on weathered bedrock are found where the loess cover is relatively thin. Recent unconsolidated deposits of sands silts and gravels were deposited by the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers since they began flowing through their present valleys thousands of years ago.

Bedrock Geology
St. Louis County, Missouri



Sources: "Land Element," *General Plan*, St. Louis County Planning, 1973; U.S. Geological Survey, 2002.