

VESTIGES of Lands End

Landslides

Lands End has been shaped, changed, created, and destroyed by the forces of erosion for thousands of years. San Franciscans have been fighting a battle against these forces since the 1880s by building retaining walls, terracing gardens, irrigating strategically, asphaltting, sand bagging, and a variety of other tactics.

Landslides famously caused the demise of the #1 California streetcar line, Lands End Station, and El Camino del Mar. Small landslides and subtle erosion are constantly at work eating away at the remaining vestiges of Lands End including the remains of the Sutro Baths and Sutro Heights.

The area's unstable ground still causes hikers to become stranded - or even occasionally fall to their deaths.

Top: Workers erect signs that alert pedestrians of landslide danger, 1947; *Bottom:* Damage from a landslide that closed the Cliff Line railroad in 1925.



Image courtesy of San Francisco History Center



Image courtesy of San Francisco Municipal Railway Archives