

El Camino del Mar

In the early 1910s the Superintendent of City Parks envisioned a scenic boulevard that would connect the Harbor View District (today's Marina District) with Ocean Beach. Construction began on this boulevard, named El Camino Del Mar, in 1915.

By the end of the year the first stretch from the Presidio to Lincoln Park was completed. The road was extended through the Park to Sutro Heights in 1924.

The first of many damaging landslides to plague the road occurred in 1928. Repairs and stabilization efforts continued for decades with varying success.

The road was closed to preserve military safety at the onset of WWII, and after repairs, was reopened to the public in 1951.

Landslides in 1955 and again in 1956 finally prompted the city to stop repairs until a more permanent solution could be found. Engineering studies and reports over the years tried to find ways to combat the erosion but most efforts have failed.

Today, only small portions of the former road survives as a hiking trail that offers spectacular views and a fairly easy walk from Lincoln Park to Lands End.

From top to bottom: El Camino del Mar just after completion in 1925; Landslide damage in 1941; Reopened in 1951.

