The First Geology Lab:
Walking Field Trip From MPC to Del Monte Beach

During our first lab session we will walk from MPC to Del Monte Beach, with many stops along the way to see and discuss evidence for the ocean's role in shaping our landscape along the shores of Monterey Bay. Please participate in the discussion and answer the questions at each of the stops.

Please wear walking shoes and clothes appropriate for spending a couple of hours outside.

If you somehow miss the beginning of lab, please use the following directions and descriptions to find us.

Stop 1: the rock sculpture in the MPC Library courtyard.

a. What kind of rock is this?

b. What is special about the "shape" of this rock?

Stop 2: Monterey Formation, in back of the Monterey Art Museum

a. What characteristics do you see in this outcrop that indicates it is a sedimentary rock?

b. What is a "depositional setting," and what is the depositional setting of the Monterey Formation?

c. What is the evidence that we can see in the rock that supports our depositional-setting interpretations?

d. How did the Monterey Formation get to be where you see it here today?

e. Have you ever seen these rocks anywhere else in the Monterey Bay Area? If so, where?

Stop 3: The "Rock Sculpture" on the shores of El Estero. (El Estero is the body of water that stretches from Fremont St to Dennis the Menace Park.)

a. What kind of rocks is the sculpture made out of?

b. Where were these rocks formed?

c. What evidence can you see in the rocks that supports this interpretation.

Stop 4: The shores of El Estero

a. Why might this little valley and little lake be here in the first place?

b. What processes cause sea level to rise and fall?

Stop 5: On the way down Camino El Estero to Del Monte Beach

a. What kinds of rocks do we see on our way?

b. How are they being used?

Stop 6: Del Monte Beach.

a. Where does all this sand come from, anyway?

b. Which major landmarks can we see from the beach? (If it's a clear day we'll be able to see quite a few)

c. What's the main process by which sand gets transported down the beach?