

Are there fossils in the park? If so, what type?

Unfortunately, I cannot answer yes or no to this question. As far as I know (after a brief staff survey) no one has looked for fossils in the park. For that reason I am not certain if there are any.

Most of the rocks in the park were formed in the Cretaceous period (about 100,000,000 years ago). This area has been under water several times since it was first formed, and has risen up again each time until the mountains you can hike in today were formed. The last great uprising in the bay area was during the Pleistocene (around the last great ice age) Era. Most of the soil laid down prior to that was eroded away.

I think it is reasonable to assume that Pleistocene era fossils could be found here. Many types of plants and animals were very similar to those found today. Mammoths, mastodons, bison, saber toothed cats, giant sloths, horses and camels abounded. Conifers, mosses and flowering plants were common. And, of course, our own species *Homo sapiens* evolved in that period.

The La Brea tarpits are famous as having the largest concentration of Pleistocene fossils in the world (at least 660 different species have been found there). Just a few years ago a fossilized mammoth was discovered in San Jose. Both areas are similar in age to here.

There is at least the possibility of a very wide range of fossils that may be found in the park. Maybe someday we will find a *Smilodon californicus* or *Mammuthus columbi* of our very own!