

Places of the Bay Area

Plan Bay Area 2040

Place Story Examples

*Fort Baker, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
San Francisco, CA*



With cabinets packed, camping gear organized, bikes secured, atlas marked-up, and a surprise in my shorts pocket, Jill and I rolled out of Oakland on a voyage that would take us 2.5 months and over 6,000 miles through the Great American West. All we needed before leaving the Bay was a photo to capture the beginning of our journey.

As we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, a calm settled over me and I felt a profound joy as I looked up at the towering beams, the Headlands open space, and picturesque Fort Baker. It was finally happening. All the saving, the planning, the spending... all culminating in this moment.

I parked the van in a little pullout, beside the Bay Trail in Fort Baker, set up my tripod and composed the shot. Content with the layout - Golden Gate rising on the right, San Francisco in the distance - I set the self-timer. As it counted down, I felt the closing of one life chapter and the beginning of something new. With total excitement for the future, I got on one knee, looked into my wife-to-be's eyes, and the shutter clicked.

- Ben Botkin

One of the reasons I enjoy the Cleveland Cascade is I'm not the only person attracted to it. If you spend a Saturday there you'll find families, Lake Merritt joggers looking to add a little something extra to their run, volunteers maintaining the gardens, and people like me, resting, daydreaming, and reading on the benches at each landing. It may sound like a distracting space, but the Cleveland Cascade was a place of focus for me my first summer in Oakland.

I think one of the many reasons I like the space is because when I read my vision is focused a few feet away, as is so much of my life. At the Cleveland Cascade, I take breaks, look out across Lake Merritt, and daydream about what lies ahead.

- Michael Germeraad



*Cleveland Cascade, Lake Merritt
Oakland, CA*