

My Journey through Foster City

Foster City is now celebrating its 50th anniversary which is a magnificent milestone. An estimated population of 33,000, quite close to Silicon Valley, and considered one of the United States' safest cities, if you live in Foster City, you would have a good reason to be proud of it!

Founded in the 1960s and incorporated in 1971, it was built on Brewer Island in the marshes of the San Francisco Bay. In fact, one of the elementary schools in Foster City holds the name of Brewer Island. Named after T. Jack Foster, a real estate magnate, Foster City also has a statue of him in front of the City Hall. Our city has been ranked many times as the 'Best Place to Live In' by Money magazine.

To sum it up, Jack Foster has created the beloved city we all know and love. I'm sure that everyone has several tales to tell about their lives in the city. I acknowledge this and would like to share my own history over here in our city today.

In my 12 years in Foster City, I have lived in many homes. My journey began in Harbor Cove where I lived for a few months after my birth. Based on the photos that my mom shares with me, I can see delightful memories of the gorgeous lagoon and Leo J Ryan Park that could be viewed from our home.

A couple months before I turned one, we moved to Marina Point where I lived until the age of four. I started out cruising along the Bay Trail in a stroller. As I got older, I learned to bike there which shows my growth through the years. Though I don't recall it, I love hearing the stories of myself never wanting to leave Foster City's many parks as they were so fun to play in! We are privileged to have so many parks so close at hand. For a playful kid, Foster City's various parks are a dream come true!

We later moved to Foster's Landing apartments. I loved the format of the home as I had a room all to myself and a play area that was chock-full of toys. I loved the many paths in the community and the leaves that changed color and dropped in the fall. I simply loved collecting them when I used to go biking. I always thought of the area over there as a safe and tranquil sanctuary. I especially liked that PJCC was so close to us. My school friends also lived in the neighborhood. My favorite home is the one that I am currently living in. It is so roomy and comfortable. Now everyone in my family has their own rooms along with a study and a guest room. Our spacious house also made it easier to do distance learning and work from home during COVID 19 shelter-in-place.

Besides all the homes I've lived in, there are also some special moments that have happened in Foster City which I've always wanted to share with others. One of the most recent ones was when I went back to my old home in Foster's Landing. My bike ride there honestly should have been called 'Trip down the Memory Lane' as when I passed different landmarks in the community, I recalled special moments that I had experienced. My mom and brother were with me when I went to our old home. I pointed at it as several memories flooded in my mind. Then we went to a trail that eventually led to the backside of PJCC. The leaves were turning different hues of autumn shades and I remembered that I

used to collect a few of the most colorful leaves in my bicycle pocket. I checked my bike pocket, the same one I used to collect leaves in, and felt as if some of the leaves were still there.

Recently, I've gone biking with my friends around the neighborhood and it was really fun. We meet at Erckenbrack Park and then circle that area, occasionally going to other streets. I like the fact that it so safe here in Foster City,

Another thing I love about Foster City is how festive people are. During Halloween, people always adorn their homes beautifully. Some decorations are subtle like a pumpkin beside the doorstep while others go all out with several inflatables, a Halloween themed projector, and lights along the rim of the roof. Christmas is coming up and I've already seen many beautiful decorations including Santa's sleigh, Rudolph the red nosed reindeer, and of course Christmas with the Peanuts gang! But there are other kinds of festivals that people celebrate here. A variety of music bands perform at the amphitheater during the summer concert every Friday. Even the 50 year anniversary concert took place there so suffice it to say that the amphitheater is a prime spot for special events and in itself is also a fun place to hangout.

The best part about Foster City to someone like me though, is the Art & Wine Festival. You might not know it by that name. It's changed from City Fest to Summer Days as that's the season this enjoyable event takes place. For 3 days, you can have the time of your life. Personally, I find the exhilarating rides the best part. I would advise to get a day-long ticket as you can enjoy the festival really well that way. All proceeds go to future events for our city so it's a win-win. Besides rides, you can do many other things including getting meals from food trucks and shopping from the art and culture mini shops. I was so sad that it couldn't happen in 2020 and 2021 because of Covid-19 but I am really excited for next year's festival. The hardest part is waiting!

There are now a total of 4 elementary schools in Foster City: Brewer Island, Audubon, Beach Park, and Foster City. I went to Brewer Island and had a really good time there! There is only 1 middle school, Bowditch, where kids from 3 (now 4) schools come in. It's pretty big but there might need to be another one built since Beach Park is also there now.

Foster City has so many parks so it's a really fun place for young children to live in. Next to Audubon are Killdeer Park and Gull Park. Near Bowditch is Shad Park, Marlin Park, and Sunfish Park. Catamaran Park is also a pretty large park. The closest park near where I live is Erckenbrack Park right behind Brewer Island. Some other parks in Foster City that I enjoy playing in are Arcturus, Ketch, Farragut, Boothbay, and Leo J. Ryan Park. During the spring and fall seasons, you can enjoy watching FCLL baseball games or AYSO soccer matches at Edgewater and Sea Cloud Park. I know I like seeing my brother's games there!

Foster City has so much to do! You could check out wonderful books at the library, exercise vigorously at PJCC, give your dog a fun playmate at the dog park, and have several restaurants to eat delicious food from! From all these activities, my personal favorite has got to be the library as they have a great collection of the best books! I think that this city is a really good place to live since you can do

just about anything you want to. I also appreciate the diversity of people here since you can meet and make friends with people from all over the world here in this one happy city.

As for the future, I'm looking forward to what's in store for this city. If I had to suggest changes, I would advise on more middle schools instead of elementary schools. A movie theater in the city would also be a great addition for residents as it could also be within walking distance for some communities or a short drive for others. I've always wanted a nice meditation garden here to add a calm place where people could stop by and just relax. There are many parks but for my age group, places such as arcades would be welcomed with open arms. Or even better, an amusement park like a year-round Summer Days Festival! Honestly though, I'm fine with our city just the way it is.

In conclusion, I love Foster City. It holds many of my best memories and holds many options of what you can do. There are so many parks and schools so you have many choices and the people that live here are wonderful. I've lived here my whole life and don't plan on moving anytime soon.