

# The Great Tide Pool

**TALES OF PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA**  
by local award-winning author, [Brad Herzog](#)



## TURNER & HOOCH, RATED PG

Pacific Grove became a Hollywood star 35 years ago this summer – thanks to a lovable, slobbering canine. Well, Tom Hanks may have had something to do with it, too.



*Turner & Hooch* premiered in late July 1989. It's a movie about a fastidious small-town police investigator, Scott Turner (Hanks), who yearns for big-city action. He ends up finding himself partnered with Hooch, a large and rambunctious dog who was the only witness to a murder. Though much of the movie was filmed way down south in San Pedro and the crew was only on the Monterey Peninsula for about a week and a half, PG is prevalent throughout the film.



One of many “Hey, there’s PG!” moments in the movie, for instance, takes place during the opening credits. A police car drives slowly down Lighthouse Avenue and parks at the corner of Forest Avenue in front of the former Chase Bank, which has been reimagined as City Hall. Soon, the primary plot is jumpstarted by a couple of kids discovering \$8000 in cash... at Lovers Point, which the film refers to as Pine Cone Beach. Turner hears of the situation and makes a U-turn to get back to the beach, doing so on Ocean View Boulevard, where the ice plant blooms in the background. Later, a foot chase down Forest Avenue becomes a car chase along Ocean View.

And, of course, like extras in the movie, various locales make appearances in the background, including Chautauqua Hall, PG’s real City Hall, Esplanade Park, Jewell Park, Berwick Park, the Holman Building, the Pacific Grove Art Center, and Peppers Mexicali Café (along with buildings currently housing Juice n’ Java, Bradley Print Services, U.S. Bank, and Sotheby’s International Realty).

Didn’t know that? Here are a few more things you surely didn’t know about the police pooch project:





- The film was directed by Roger Spottiswoode, but it was originally helmed by Henry Winkler. Yes, the Fonz. He was fired 13 days into production. It turns out two of the nicest guys in Hollywood, Winkler and Hanks (who battled each other in one episode of *Happy Days*), didn't get along.
- Pacific Grove was transformed into the fictional town of Cypress Beach for the film, although one oops scene shows a police station door announcing "Cypress Grove."
- Hooch's real name? Beasley. The Dogue de Bordeaux (one of 50 different breeds considered by producers) was born in a Wisconsin kennel in 1978 and died in 1992.
- One line spoken by Hanks to Hooch - "No, no, no! You're eating the car! Don't eat the car!" - was later used as an animation test when Pixar was preparing the movie *Toy Story*. After seeing it, Hanks signed up to play the part of Woody.

That scene took place at the corner of Forest and Lighthouse avenues, where the movie began. It's arguably the commercial center of PG, so it's appropriate that the location bookends the movie. In one of the last scenes (SPOILER ALERT, sort of) we see Hanks get into a police car and set out to survey Cypress Beach. He's decided to stay in the fictional version of Pacific Grove. Can you blame him?

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