

Perfectly paved trails,

Clean and crisp shore lines.

Branches that move aside and open up the landscape just for you.

*Neon* city,

but not the one or the kind you're thinking of.

Use to only take fifteen minutes to an hour to get where

skyscrapers

and thousand-year old

hundred

trees

and shit creeks.

~~and freshwater streams~~

have not yet been replaced by

and mountains...

Beaches,

lakes

the only costs I had to factor in was transportation.

Here, the closest “beach”, lake or “mountain” requires planning I’m not use to:

- Cost of transportation +
- Entrance fees
- Parking (if the lifeguards are working and it’s in season)

Initially, this was quite off-putting.

I grew up where nature did not cost you several hours of pay.

This commodification was offensive (at least to me).

But I’m starting to think that I’ve just taken things for granted.

Because how are we supposed to take care of these places without reparation?

Though,

I do wonder how much of these fees actually goes towards caring...

What does care look like for manicured lands and bodies of water?

Is it *care* if there is no conversation?

Is it *c a r e* if it is not selfless?