

A guide to San Francisco's privately-owned public open spaces

Secrets of San Francisco



All photos by Keith Baker



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING + URBAN RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION

In this guide, SPUR reveals one (or 68, to be precise) of San Francisco's best kept secrets: a rich network of privately-owned public open spaces scattered throughout the city's downtown area. Use this guide to scope out a new spot to eat lunch, hold an informal meeting, or simply soak in some nature. Big or small, park or "snippet," north or south of Market: know your city's POPOS and swear to never eat lunch in your cube again!

POPOS

P-Privately
O-owned
P-public
O-open
S-spaces

1	Redwood Park	10	345 California	19	Citygroup Center	29	45 Fremont	39	211 Main	48	55 Second
2	505 Sansome	11	200 California	20	Trinity Alley	30	50 Beale	40	221 Main	49	560 Mission
3	Empire Park	12	150 California	21	Crocker Galleria	31	77 Beale	41	301 Howard	50	555 Mission
4	Embarcadero	13	50 California	22	One Post	32	201 Mission	42	199 Fremont	51	101 Second
	Center West	14	One California	23	595 Market	33	123 Mission	43	100 First	52	Foundry Square
5	456 Montgomery	15	101 California	24	555/575 Market	34	One Market	44	25 Jessie	53	235 Second
6	343 Sansome	16	100 Pine	25	525 Market	35	135 Main	45	Golden Gate	54	Marriott Courtyard
7	650 California	17	One Front/	26	425 Market	36	160 Spear		University	55	Marathon Plaza
8	600 California		444 Market	27	14 Fremont	37	180 Howard	46	49 Stevenson	56	611 Folsom
9	555 California	18	One Bush	28	333 Market	38	201 Spear	47	71 Stevenson	*Several of these addresses	

*Several of these addresses include more than one POPOS.



1/4 mile

SPUR surveyed a total of 68 POPOS in downtown San Francisco. Of those 68 spaces — which include parks, plazas, terraces and snippets — 45 were created between 1959 and 1985. The remaining 23 were created under the requirements of the 1985 Downtown Plan, a set of zoning regulations adopted to control growth, and which included guidelines for the creation of more publicly accessible open space in downtown San Francisco. We hope you will use this guide to find your favorite POPOS. Share it widely with colleagues and friends!

Created before 1985

Created after 1985

YEAR BUILT SPUR Rating

1 **REDWOOD PARK** 1972 **Excellent**

This **urban park**, located at the foot of the Transamerica Pyramid, is a wonderful surprise. Surrounded by Redwood trees and graced with luscious ferns, the park features a fountain spouting water several feet high, and figurative bronze sculptures. There are also grassy areas, wooden benches and a concrete stage. Take-out food services are nearby. Closed after office hours.

2 **505 SANSOME ST.** 1980 **Good**

A **greenhouse** in the lobby of this office building faces and connects to Redwood Park. Its two-story glass walls create an airy interior, featuring granite flooring, several paintings and eight tables, each with three to four chairs of beautiful modern design. Two food services are located within the building. *Needed improvements: exterior signage, more seating*

3 **EMPIRE PARK** 1988 **Good**

From the Commercial Street lunchtime mall the visitor enters this intimate **urban garden**, occupying the site of a demolished building. The design is symmetrical, with brick planter beds and sitting ledges along both sides and a fountain sculpture at the end of the central axis. Benches and tables with chairs complete the furnishings of this enjoyable space. *Needed improvements: Restroom availability.*

4 **EMBARCADERO CENTER WEST** 1989 **Fair/Good**

The first of the three open spaces here is the conversion of Commercial Street between Sansome & Battery into an exclusive **pedestrian walkway**. There are **small seating areas** on the second level and elaborate stairs flanked by narrow waterfalls that bring the second-story walkway to street level at mid-block. The second half of the street has two rows of trees in circular planters with ledges too low to sit on comfortably. Tables and chairs that had been placed between trees have been removed. Also gone are adjacent food services.

The second, at the Old Federal Reserve Bank building, consists of the generous steps (**snippets**) to the historic building from both Battery and Sansome streets.

The third, on the south side of Sacramento between Sansome & Battery, is a two-level **snippet**, west of the office building. Grey granite covers the ground level, steps and retaining wall with attached seating ledges. The space also features potted plants and a sculpture as well as moveable tables and chairs, and adjacent food services.

5 **456 MONTGOMERY ST.** 1983 **Fair**

Some seating has been provided at the sidewalk level but the main open space, an **urban garden**, cascades down into the middle recess of the building. Several small terraces with benches, stairs, planters and a water feature extend down two floors and end in a space with tables and chairs outside a deli. It gets little sun and there is no signage anywhere indicating that it is a public space. *Needed improvements: street-level signage*

6 **343 SANSOME ST.** 1990 **Excellent**

There are two open spaces here. Signs at a street entrance and in an elevator guide visitors to the first: the **view and sun terrace** on the 15th floor. The terrace includes tables and chairs, benches, olive trees and ledge seating along granite planters. Joan Brown's Four Seasons obelisk stands in center. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The other open space is on Leidesdorff Street, adjacent to the building, which has been transformed into a **lunchtime mall** by installing special pavement, bollards and elements to block off the street, and moveable chairs and tables. Two food services are on the building's ground floor. Available 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Needed improvements: lettering on signage*

7 **650 CALIFORNIA ST.** 1965 **Poor**

There are two largely barren **plazas**: one at the California Street front entrance, and one behind the building, with white concrete benches and large circular raised planters with edges suitable for seating. Planters with boxwood and hydrangea are arranged on stone pavement. *Needed improvements: benches, landscaping, signage*

8 **600 CALIFORNIA ST.** 1990 **Fair**

This **snippet** has no amenities and no seating except the stairs, but it sports one of the densest assemblages of public art pieces downtown, including the Art Deco elevator doors on the loggia wall at the main entrance, Bella Feldman's sculpture inside the bank lobby, Kent Robert's aqueduct/railroad trestle/elevated highway on the stairway and Bruce Beasley's bronze sculpture on top of the stairs, placed on granite cobblestones. *Needed improvements: landscaping, seating*

9 **555 CALIFORNIA ST.** 1969 **Fair**

The red granite used on the outside of this building extends to the pavement, railing and steps of this grand, almost forbidding plaza. The massive black granite sculpture accentuates this impression. On the northeast corner, there is an **urban garden** with six large wooden planters with olive trees and bamboo and beautifully designed teak benches. There is no restroom access or adjacent food service. Open at all times.

10 345 CALIFORNIA ST. 1986 **Poor**

This shady **snippet** on California Street is located in a deeply recessed entry to the office building. Granite benches are lined up against a wall on one side. Also, some planters have been placed along the building walls. An additional row of benches on the opposite side would make the space more useful. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: landscaping, seating*

11 200 CALIFORNIA ST. 1990 **Fair**

This **public sitting area in a pedestrian walkway** was created in an extension of the sidewalk. It has a rectangular planting bed with ledges that are a bit too high for sitting comfortably, and features the *Hawaiian*, a figurative bronze sculpture. The planting bed replaced the benches and other pieces of furniture of the original installation. Open at all times.

12 150 CALIFORNIA ST. 2000 **Good**

The sign near the building entrance indicating the existence of a publicly accessible **sun terrace** is small, dark and very difficult to read. The lobby guard will ask visitors their purpose but will allow the public to pass. The sun terrace is oriented toward Front Street, has tables and chairs, plants and public art. It also offers sunny, shady and wind protected areas. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Needed improvements: signage at entrance and lobby*

13 50 CALIFORNIA ST. 1972 **Excellent**

This **snippet**, occupying the building setback, is an extension of the design and material from the open space across the street. Various shaped planters, with ledges at sitting height, have been placed on rose-colored granite and green stone pavement. A small café with outdoor seating enlivens the space. Open at all times.

14 ONE CALIFORNIA ST. 1970 **Excellent**

The **snippets** around this building feature large stone planters of triangular, rectangular and round shapes along Market and California streets, some with trees and benches. The pavement consists of green stone and rose-colored granite. The café in the building fills some of the open space with its tables and chairs. Open at all times.

15 101 CALIFORNIA 1982 **Excellent**

Three tall, triangular, stepped pyramids, built around the garage exhaust vents, dominate this **urban garden** within a large plaza. The steps are clad with granite, and are used for seating and as planting beds. There is a granite fountain, with gushing water creating a pleasant sound. Two restaurants on the building's ground floor open to the plaza with outdoor seating. Open at all times. Across the street, at 100 California Street, large planters have been placed on the sizable building setbacks. With some seating, the space could be easily converted into an attractive urban garden.

16 100 PINE ST. 1972 **Excellent**

This **urban garden** is tucked between very tall buildings. It's a quiet little gem of a space, accessible through the lobby to the rear or via an obscure passage off Front Street. Travertine and black granite flooring, an art piece, plants in containers and designer tables and chairs. Food services on site. Receives no sun, but light colored materials and reflected light stave off gloom. Café closes at 3 p.m., building and garden at 6:30 p.m.

17 444 MARKET ST. 1980 **Poor**

This **plaza** leading to the Market Street building entrance is an extension of the brick sidewalk of Market Street. It has no seating, and except for five small palm trees in planters, it offers no amenity. Adjacent to Mechanics Plaza. Three food services are nearby. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: landscaping and seating*

18 ONE BUSH ST. 1959 **Fair/Excellent**

A beautifully designed and maintained **urban garden** surrounds the first postwar high-rise building — a “tower in a park.” It features river rocks embedded in concrete, inlaid with a striking design of bands of grey slate. A fountain sculpture spouts and drips water. The planting consists of cherry, willow and pine trees and evergreen ground cover. The garden lies below street level and resembles a moat. It is for visual enjoyment only; no seating has been provided, the river rocks are hard to walk on and no food service is available. *Needed improvements: seating in garden, food service*

On sunny days the stone walls along the Sansome Street sidewalk (**snippets**) are well used for lunching and people-watching. Open at all times.

19 CITYGROUP CENTER 1983 **Excellent**

This **greenhouse** is built into the shell of the 1912 London-Paris Bank building, with a glass roof and two-story arches opening to Sansome and Sutter Streets. The material for the arches, the walls, the entrance steps and the floor is white marble with additional black marble bands and a round black polished marble fountain in the center. Palm trees and other plants soften the severity of the space. An Art Deco bronze sculpture graces a marble niche. A food service opens to the space and café tables and chairs have been provided. There is also a seating area inside the building lobby.

20 TRINITY ALLEY 1983 **Good**

The adjacent office tower converted Trinity Alley into a **pedestrian walkway** (connecting Bush to Sutter Street) by removing the curb and lining the roadbed with small granite pavers, and adding a narrow plaza by creating narrow platform steps up in the side setback of the building. Five food services open out to the **plaza**, and have put out chairs and tables during business hours. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: seating for general public*



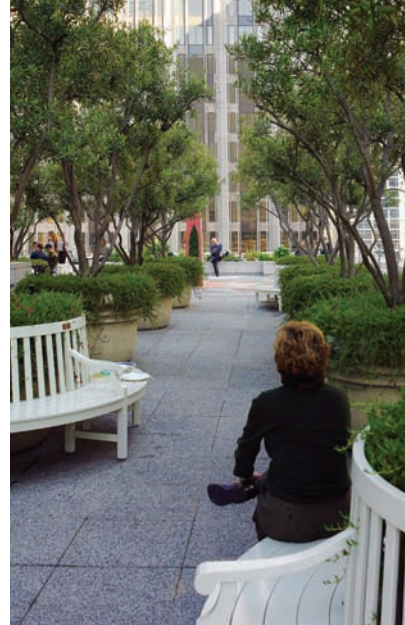
101 Second Street Greenhouse

One of the city's most pleasant POPOS is this five-story greenhouse on Second and Mission. Built in 2000, and designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the tiered space includes a mezzanine with café tables and chairs.

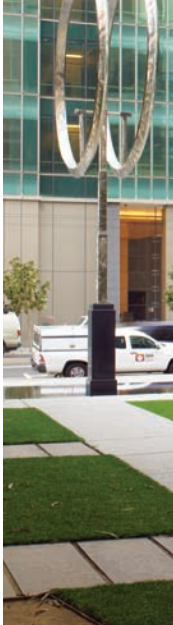
425 Market St.
Urban garden



343 Sansome St.
Sun terrace



560 Mission St.
Urban Garden



21 CROCKER GALLERIA 1982 Good

There are two rooftop sun terraces here that are open whenever the Galleria is open. One **sun terrace** is on top of the historic bank building at Montgomery and Post Streets, and is accessed from a staircase on the easterly side of the Galleria's top floor or from an elevator at the corner of the bank building. The terrace has ample seating on planter ledges and benches, but no tables. An attractive fountain is out of service.

A second **sun terrace** can be accessed from an obscure staircase in the northwest corner of the Galleria's top floor. It is a quiet refuge, offering sunny and shady places, many benches, a trellis and planters. There are many food services in the Galleria. Restrooms are on the third floor. *Needed improvements: repair fountain, better signage to the second terrace*

22 ONE POST ST. 1969 Good

Snippets with stand-up tables and square concrete blocks at sitting height next to food services. A few planters with boxwood were created when the arcade of the building was partially enclosed. They are adjacent to the steps around the hexagonal fence of the Montgomery BART station entrance, which are very well used at lunchtime on a sunny day. Open at all times.

23 595 MARKET ST. 1979 Poor

The approval of this building called for two triangular entryway **plazas**. One, at Second and Stevenson Streets, largely has been occupied by a fenced restaurant seating area. Outside, a 10-foot-wide edge of the plaza faces Stevenson Street. It has good sun exposure, and with the addition of benches and landscaping could become a pleasant public sitting area. *Needed improvements: public seating*

24 555/575 MARKET ST. 1965/1975 Fair

The beautifully landscaped **urban garden** takes up the space between two highrises. A stylized version of a mountain stream runs through it. Unfortunately this is for visual enjoyment only since access is limited to office tenants only. Benches placed at the Market Street entrance and on the circular platform that floats above the space would make it more enjoyable. *Needed improvements: public seating*

25 525 MARKET ST. 1973 Excellent

This **urban garden** features a double granite fountain with granite benches in between to enjoy the sight and sound of flowing water. The backside of one of the fountains has a tiered semi-circular planter filled with bushes and ferns. A continuous metal bench with a planter behind it shields the space from the Market Street sidewalk. The adjacent restaurant has placed tables and chairs into the open space. Open at all times.

At the back of the urban garden is a set of stairs leading up to an upper-story building lobby. There are some large plaza areas edged with landscaped planters, but no seating. These spaces easily could be turned into a pleasant sun terrace. *Needed improvements: tables, chairs, landscaping, signage*

26 425 MARKET ST. 1973 Excellent

Tucked between highrises, this **urban garden** is shady but nonetheless a jewel. It is elegantly designed with two kinds of granite, benches, flowers in planters and trees. Visitors sit, relax, people watch, drink coffee from the adjacent café or simply use it as a shortcut from Fremont to Market Street. Open at all times.



100 Pine St.
Urban garden

27 14 FREMONT ST. 1983 **Excellent**

The open space consists of a wide sitting area in a **pedestrian walkway** connecting Fremont and First Streets, and furnished with many café tables and chairs — as well as an **urban garden** with several planting beds with ledges for sitting, more café tables and chairs, and a travertine-clad colonnade extending along First Street. Two food services open to the walkway and garden, which provide shade under plum trees as well as sunshine. Open at all times.

28 333 MARKET ST. 1979/2008 **Fair**

Two-tone gray granite pavement and three rectangular planters with some ledges at sitting height are the design elements of this small **plaza**. The adjacent retail space is for lease, and a café with outdoor tables and chairs would be a welcome addition. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: tables and chairs*

29 45 FREMONT ST. 1977 **Fair**

The narrow **plaza** on the south side mainly serves as entrance to the highrise. It features brick pavement, a hedge of Japanese maples and a row of metal benches with flower planters in between. An additional row of benches mirroring the existing one would capture the morning sun. Food services are available across Fremont Street. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: seating*

30 50 BEALE ST. 1968 **Fair**

This rather large **urban park** fronting on Beale Street is full of trees and bushes. Mostly very shady, in the summer it enjoys some dappled sunshine. It includes a Bechtel Corp. history museum housed in a replica of a private railroad car the Bechtel family lived in at construction sites in the company's early days. Park open at all times. Museum open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays.

31 77 BEALE ST. 1970 **Good/Fair**

The entry **plaza** along Beale Street features a water wall, granite planters with Ginkgo trees and ledges for sitting. Unfortunately, the ledges are a bit too high to sit comfortably. The open space is somewhat intimidating. It could be made more inviting with more landscaping and comfortable seating. *Needed improvements: landscaping, seating*

There are also two small **snippets**, one on Mission Street and one on Beale Street, comprising benches alternating with concrete planters in sidewalk recesses.

32 201 MISSION ST. 1960s **Good**

This **urban garden** occupies the setbacks along Beale Street — a succession of triangular open spaces formed by concrete planter beds, densely planted, with sitting ledges attached. There are plenty of café tables and moveable chairs. Open at all times.

33 123 MISSION ST. 1986 Excellent

This **urban garden** is divided into three successive spaces by white concrete planters with attached ledges at sitting height. The planters are lushly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers. Some sunlight bounces off the building but for the most part it is shady. There are four food services nearby, but no signage. Open at all times.

34 ONE MARKET ST. 1976 Excellent

The **plaza** is oriented to the sunny side of the building. A tall hexagonal tower marks the Mission Street entrance of the building and six white masts define the open space towards the sidewalk. Ample seating and tables are provided. Several food services open to the plaza. Open at all times.

35 135 MAIN ST. 1982 Good/Fair

The front courtyard of this building has been enclosed and turned into a building lobby and **indoor park**. It has several levels defined by glass and metal railings and is furnished with couches on carpets, tables and chairs. There are identical fountains — water running over silver steel — against the side walls, framed by sheets of onyx. There is no exterior signage indicating it can be used by the public, although the lobby attendant gives assurance that it can. The alley behind the office building includes benches and a fountain. Open during office hours. *Needed improvements: exterior signage*

36 160 SPEAR ST. 1983 Excellent

This **urban garden** consists of the entrance walkway to the building that widens on both sides to make space for café tables and chairs, a water feature and a large aluminum sculpture. The planting beds against the neighboring buildings have ledges for sitting. Two food services are available, one at the open space entrance, the other inside the building. The space is well used.

37 180 HOWARD ST. 1980 Fair

This shady public sitting area in a **pedestrian walkway** is a continuation of the walkway described above. One side of the walkway abuts an arcade with brick arches and furnished with concrete cubes of sitting height, a few potted plants and a coffee cart. There is another food service around the corner.

38 201 SPEAR ST. 1982 Fair

The walkway from Spear to Steuart Streets and further on to the Gap building widens into an **urban garden**. It is defined by concrete planting beds, densely planted with camellias and ledges for sitting. The pavement consists of granite cobblestones. Large trees define the space along Spear Street. In the center stands a life-like sculpture of a man holding a camera as if taking a picture. Open at all times.

39 211 MAIN ST. 1973 Poor

This front entry **plaza** with a sunny exposure has just two concrete benches and three planters with edges at sitting height and modest landscaping. The addition of moveable seating could make it into a very pleasant space for tenants and visitors. At the eastern edge of the plaza is a rather large, fenced play lot for kids. *Needed improvements: landscaping and seating*

40 221 MAIN ST. 1974 Fair

This **plaza** offers four benches in a sea of paving. Another **plaza**, at the southern portion of the building facing Main St., has concrete benches and retaining walls at a height comfortable for sitting, as well as some greenery. With the addition of planting and tables and chairs it could be converted into a very attractive urban garden. *Needed improvements: landscaping and seating*

41 301 HOWARD ST. 1981 Fair

This small **urban garden** features a small Art Deco building that once housed a gas station office, and was moved here from another site. A food truck has been placed inside it, which together with its gaudy sign destroys the charm of the little pavilion. Tables and chairs are provided and some planting visually shields the space from the adjacent parking area. Open at all times.

42 199 FREMONT ST. 2000 Excellent

The design of this **urban garden** is a collaboration among Paul Kos, conceptual sculptor; Robert Hass, poet; and a landscape architect. The garden features Sierra granite: a 86-ton boulder, smaller boulders and rough blocks at sitting height. A Hass poem is engraved on the garden wall. A fountain drips into a circular basin with a “tok ... tok ... tok” sound evoking the passage of time. The garden opening toward Fremont Street is planted with birch trees. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: eye-level signage*

43 100 FIRST ST. 1988 Good

A staircase from Mission Street leads up to this popular **sun terrace**. Its main feature is a black granite wall with fissures spouting water into two pools where undulating glass panels evoke waves. The rectangular terrace is designed on a 45-degree grid, featuring many planter beds and terraces forming intimate spaces. Planters with trees, flowers and grass all have ledges at sitting height. Designer café tables and chairs. Deli at foot of stairs. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: restroom availability*

44 25 JESSIE ST. 1983 Fair

This small but lovely **urban garden** is adjacent to Ecker Alley in a two-story forecourt of the building. It is richly planted and has a pleasant water wall and basin whose sound creates its own atmosphere. Nice to look at but not to sit in. The only seating is on shallow steps around the fountain. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: public seating*

45 GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY 1972/2002 Good

A bridge, connecting the Mission Street sidewalk to the deeply recessed entrance to Golden Gate University, has been turned into a **snippet**. Amenities consist of concrete benches on both sides of the bridge, as well as along part of the Mission Street sidewalk. There is no planting. The space is well used by students and the general public. Open at all times.



199 Fremont St.
Urban garden



Citygroup Center
Greenhouse



343 Sansome St.
Sun terrace



123 Mission St.
Urban garden

46 49 STEVENSON ST. 1984 **Poor**

The approval of this building called for a **pedestrian walkway** along Stevenson Street. Most of the area has been fenced off for outdoor table service (with heat lamps) of the adjacent restaurant. A smaller section adjacent to the take-out section of the same restaurant contains a few tables and chairs. While not signed for exclusive use of restaurant patrons there is no signage indicating that it is also available to the general public. *Needed improvements: public seating*

47 71 STEVENSON ST. 1983 **Fair**

The open space here consists of granite **pedestrian walkways** underneath the building and connecting Stevenson and Jessie Streets. Portions of the passageways contain tables and chairs with signs indicating that they are for use only by customers of the adjacent café. The open space under the building extends into an urban garden, defined by black granite planters with ledges for sitting and a square, blue-tiled fountain gushing water and surrounded with flowers. *Needed improvements: tables and chairs*

48 55 SECOND ST. 2002 **Good**

After entering a sumptuous marble lobby from Stevenson Street, the **indoor park** is a few steps up on the left, inside the historic building. There are tables and chairs on wood flooring, and big leather chairs near windows on carpeted areas. Also, notice the potted plants and large array of paintings. Available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. On the south side of the building there is a **snippet** descending over diagonal stairs down to Jessie Street, with designer tables and chairs on granite pavement, and planting beds along the boundary of open space. *Needed improvements: food service, eye-level signage at Jessie and Stevenson Street entrances to indoor park*

49 560 MISSION ST. 2002 **Excellent**

This **urban garden** is accessible from Mission and Jessie Streets. Most unusual is a high bamboo grove obscuring the windowless façade of the building next door. From here three long steps, all at sitting height, descend down to a granite covered main area, filled with tables and chairs. Two delis serve the area. Along Mission Street is a shallow rectangular pool with a tall kinetic sculpture of two large rotating aluminum rings connected to a granite base. Open at all times. *Needed improvements: eye-level signage on Jessie St. in addition to existing open spaces map*

50 555 MISSION ST. 2008 **Excellent**

Here you will find a **plaza** extending between Mission and Minna Streets, and paved mostly with black granite. A large, playful sculpture dominates this area. On the south side it steps up to a sitting area with wooden benches, blooming ground cover and three large aluminum heads. The last quarter of the plaza towards Minna Street features a grove of Gingko trees with wooden benches underneath. Open at all times.

51 101 SECOND ST. 2000 **Excellent**

Minimalist design and sumptuous materials characterize this expansive five-story **greenhouse** with two glass fronts that open to Second and Mission Streets. Beige marble walls contrast with black granite floors in the main space as well as on the mezzanine. Designer café tables and chairs, granite benches, a large painting and a sculpture complete the furnishings. Sometimes there is noontime entertainment. Available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Needed improvements: signage on Second St. entrance*

52 FOUNDRY SQUARE 2003 **Good/Fair**

The generous **plazas** of these buildings, one at each corner of Howard and First, were conceived as one large plaza bisected by the streets. The plazas were built at the same elevation and feature black granite. In the northeast and southeast plazas, a row of stacked granite blocks at sitting height delineates the sidewalk's edge, with a larger granite block marking the corner. In the northwest building, plastic planters replace granite blocks. Each plaza has tulip trees in large planters with seating, and a major piece of sculpture. The southeast plaza has adjacent food services with moveable tables and chairs. Plaques indicating plazas are open to public are needed. *Needed improvements: eye-level signage and moveable seating*

53 235 SECOND ST. 2002 **Good**

This small **plaza** facing Mission Street contains abundant tables and chairs on stone pavement, and an art piece. Great sunshine, but space would benefit greatly if a café were nearby. Available at all times. Inside the building lobby is the **indoor park**, with an art piece, tables and chairs on stone floor, and sectional sofas on carpeted area. Available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. *Needed improvements: food service*

54 MARRIOTT COURTYARD 2001 **Fair**

This **snippet** consists of a small sitting area outside a café, four feet below the sidewalk and extending along Folsom Street. Sign with the open space logo says the space is public, available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. — which otherwise would not be obvious.

55 MARATHON PLAZA 1980s **Excellent**

This large urban park takes up a triangular space facing Second Street and is framed by the building wings. A large water feature with gushing water connects to a large concrete fountain deep inside the building recess. Ample seating is provided on concrete benches, ledges, walls and stepped pyramids. The park is lushly planted with flowers and trees. A deli and a restaurant with their own outdoor seating open up to the park. Open at all times.

56 611 FOLSOM ST. 1965 **Fair**

This barren **plaza**, at the outer edge of the office district, is built entirely of the same shade of brick — floor, benches and all. Two rows of plane trees along Folsom Street are the only greenery. It is open at all times and there are two food services nearby. It is often shady. Addition of landscaping would make it more appealing. *Needed improvements: landscaping*