**◎ ChatGPT**

# San Francisco Open Data Layers (updated Jan 27 2026)

This document summarizes major public data layers from the City and County of San Francisco that are useful for mapping and analysis. Each entry identifies the dataset, how often it updates, where to access it (API or file), and notes about content or usage.

## Built environment and land records

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence (Data change / publishing frequency) | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Building Footprints** | Planning (DataSF) – `ynuv-fyni` | **As needed / Daily** – The 3-D buildings are refined from Pictometry's 2010 model and publish new or updated footprints as needed; the dataset metadata states that data change frequency is *"As needed"* and the publishing frequency is daily [1] . The `data_loaded_at` field shows the dataset was last updated on 2026-01-26 [2] . | Socrata API (JSON/CSV) via `https://data.sfgov.org/resource/ynuv-fyni.csv` or `.json` ; shapefile download available through the DataSF interface. | Each record contains a unique **SF Building ID**, building height and area. Because updates occur only when new buildings are captured or edited, the dataset should be re-downloaded when the `data_loaded_at` timestamp changes. |

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence (Data change / publishing frequency) | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Parcels – Active & Retired** | Assessor-Recorder – `acdm-wktn` | **Daily / Daily** – Custom metadata lists both data change frequency and publishing frequency as daily [3] . | Socrata API ( `https:// data.sfgov.org/ resource/acdm- wktn.csv` / `.json` ). | Contains current parcels and historic parcels (retired parcels) since 1995. Use the `active` field to filter current parcels; to track splits and mergers link to the preceding parcel via `parent_parcel_id` . |
| **Building Permits** | Department of Building Inspection (DBI) – `i98e-djp9` | **Multiple times per hour / Daily** – The dataset's custom fields report frequent data changes and daily publishing [4] . A note in the description explains that after 2024-12-10, only new or updated records are published; the `data_as_of` / `data_loaded_at` fields show the load date [5] . | Socrata API ( `.../ resource/i98e- djp9.csv` / `.json` ). | Contains all DBI permit applications. To get contact information, join on `permit_number` with the weekly **Building Permits Contacts** dataset ( `3pee-9qhc` ), which publishes weekly [6] . |
| **DBI Complaints (All divisions)** | Department of Building Inspection – `gm2e-bten` | **Daily / Weekly** – Custom fields list a daily data-change frequency and a weekly publishing frequency [7] . | Socrata API ( `.../ resource/gm2e- bten.csv` / `.json` ). | Captures complaints to DBI's Housing, Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Code Enforcement divisions. Join to **Notices of Violation** to see inspection comments and violation codes. |
| **Notices of Violation** | Department of Building Inspection – `nbtm-fbw5` | **Daily / Daily** – Publishing details show that data change and publishing occur daily [8] . | Socrata API ( `.../ resource/nbtm- fbw5.csv` / `.json` ). | Provides violation records linked to DBI complaints; sort by `complaint_number` and `item_sequence_number` . |

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence (Data change / publishing frequency) | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **311 Service Requests (since July 2008)** | 311 Customer Service Center – `vw6y-z8j6` | **Multiple times per hour / Daily** – The dataset metadata reports multiple data changes per hour and daily publishing [9]. The data.gov description states the dataset is updated nightly around 6 a.m. Pacific Time [10]. | Socrata API (`.../resource/vw6y-z8j6.csv` / `.json`). | Contains 311 cases across all categories. For spatial analysis, use the `point` field (longitude/latitude). Service-level response times are available; case descriptions sometimes contain personally identifiable information and should be handled carefully. |
| **Parcels – Historic & Retired** | Assessor-Recorder – `acdm-wktn` | same as above (daily update) | same as above | Use this dataset to view past parcel boundaries; the `retired_date` field indicates when a parcel ceased to exist. |

## Neighborhoods and administrative boundaries

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SF Find Neighborhoods (polygons)** | Planning – dataset `gfpk-269f` (underlying data) and map `pty2-tcw4` | **As needed / As needed** – The dataset's publishing details show "As needed" for both data change and publishing [11]. | Socrata API for data (`.../resource/gfpk-269f.csv` / `.json`); interactive map via DataSF page (`pty2-tcw4`). | Defines neighborhood boundaries used by the SF Find tool; boundaries are approximate and for general location only. Includes a `link` field to external neighborhood profiles. |

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Green Connections Network (historical)** | Planning – `q8g4-wqta` (map) / data `ta46-stby` | **Not updated (historical) / Not updated** – Custom fields indicate the dataset is historical and no longer updated [12]. | Zipped GIS shapefile available on the DataSF page; not published via API. | Shows proposed "green connectors" (streets for improved walking and biking) linking parks and waterfront; useful for historical context but not for current planning. |

## Topography and environmental constraints

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Elevation Contours** | Public Works (likely) – `6d73-6c4f` | **Not updated (historical only) / Not updated** – The dataset provides 5-foot contour lines from the City's elevation model and is not actively maintained [13]. | Zipped shapefile available from DataSF; no API due to geometry complexity. | Contains contour polylines for San Francisco mainland and Treasure Island. Use with caution for engineering work because it is based on an older elevation datum (NAVD88-adjusted). |
| **Slopes 20 Percent or Greater (CEQA)** | Planning – `s66h-h4vp` | **As needed / Not updated** – Publishing details show the layer is updated as needed but overall considered historical [14]. | Zipped shapefile on DataSF; not provided via API. | Shows hillside areas with slopes ≥ 20 %. Required for environmental review and hillside zoning; polygon boundaries seldom change. |

## Parks and green space

| Data layer | Publishing department & ID | Update cadence | Access methods | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RPD Parks** | Recreation & Parks Department – `3nje-yn2u` | **As needed / As needed** – The custom fields record that updates occur as needed and the dataset is published as needed [15]. | Socrata API for table data (`.../resource/3nje-yn2u.csv` / `.json`); zipped shapefile attachment `RPD_Parks.zip` for GIS use [16]. | Provides polygons of park lands managed by the Recreation and Park Department (including out-of-city properties like Camp Mather). Each feature includes attributes such as `map_park_n` (park name) and perimeter/area metrics. |
| **Green Connections Network** | Planning – `q8g4-wqta` (map) / data `ta46-stby` | **Not updated (historical)** – See details above. | Zipped shapefile only. | Useful for context on proposed green connectors. |

## Using these datasets

- **Temporal awareness:** Many SF datasets now publish only new or changed records after December 2024. Use the `data_as_of` or `data_loaded_at` fields to track the current snapshot (for example, building permits and building footprints). When creating extracts for a given date, filter records where `data_loaded_at` is greater than your last download date.
- **API vs. file:** Datasets with simple geometries or tabular structure are exposed through the Socrata API. Complex geometries (e.g., elevation contours and slope polygons) are available as zipped shapefiles but not through the API. When working in GIS software, download these shapefiles; for programmatic access, use the `.csv` or `.json` endpoints.
- **Combining layers:** To create complete building information, join building permit and complaint/violation datasets on `permit_number` and `complaint_number`. For parcel or building ownership analysis, join the parcels dataset with assessor's roll (not covered here) using `parcel_number`.
- **Spatial reference:** Most shapefiles from DataSF are delivered in California State Plane Zone III (EPSG: 2227) or NAD83; check the metadata inside the zipped shapefile. Socrata API coordinate fields are typically in WGS 84.

## Conclusion

San Francisco's open data portal provides rich geospatial data for buildings, parcels, 311 requests, permits, complaints, neighborhoods, elevation, slope, and parks. Understanding each dataset's update cadence and access method helps ensure analyses remain current. The tables above summarize the most recent information available on January 27 2026.

[1] [2] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/ynuv-fyni

[3] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/acdm-wktn

[4] [5] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/i98e-djp9

[6] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/3pee-9qhc

[7] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/gm2e-bten

[8] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/nbtm-fbw5

[9] [10] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/vw6y-z8j6

[11] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/gfpk-269f

[12] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/q8g4-wqta

[13] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/6d73-6c4f

[14] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/s66h-h4vp

[15] [16] data.sfgov.org
https://data.sfgov.org/api/views/3nje-yn2u