

Town of Auburn

CTAP Buildout Report



**CTAP
PROGRAM**



**BUILDOUT
METHODS**



**COMMUNITY
SCENARIOS**



**BUILDOUT
RESULTS**



INDICATORS



Prepared by:
Southern New Hampshire
Planning Commission
438 Dubuque St
Manchester, NH 03104
www.snhpc.org

January 2011

A project of
CTAP - Community
Technical Assistance
Program

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
What is CTAP?	2
What is a Buildout?	2
What a Buildout is not?	3
Scenario Planning	3
Report Template	3
Methods	4
Tools and Data	4
Procedures	5
Buildout Scenarios	7
Base Scenario	7
Base Scenario	8
Standard Alternative	9
Community Scenario	12
Indicators	15
Indicators - BUILDOUT	16
Indicators - DEMOGRAPHICS & EMPLOYMENT	18
Indicators - ENVIRONMENTAL & OPEN SPACE	21
Indicators - LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS	22
Indicators - MUNICIPAL DEMANDS	27
Indicators - WATER AND ENERGY USE	29
Indicators - TRANSPORTATION	30
Indicators - TRANSPORTATION	31
Appendices	34



Introduction

This report details the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) Buildout Analysis results for the Town of Auburn, New Hampshire. CTAP is a five-year initiative designed to assist communities that will be affected by the rebuilding of I-93. This buildout, one of 26, is designed to allow a community to assess their future needs and help them reduce any negative consequences from the increased development pressure caused by the widening of I-93.

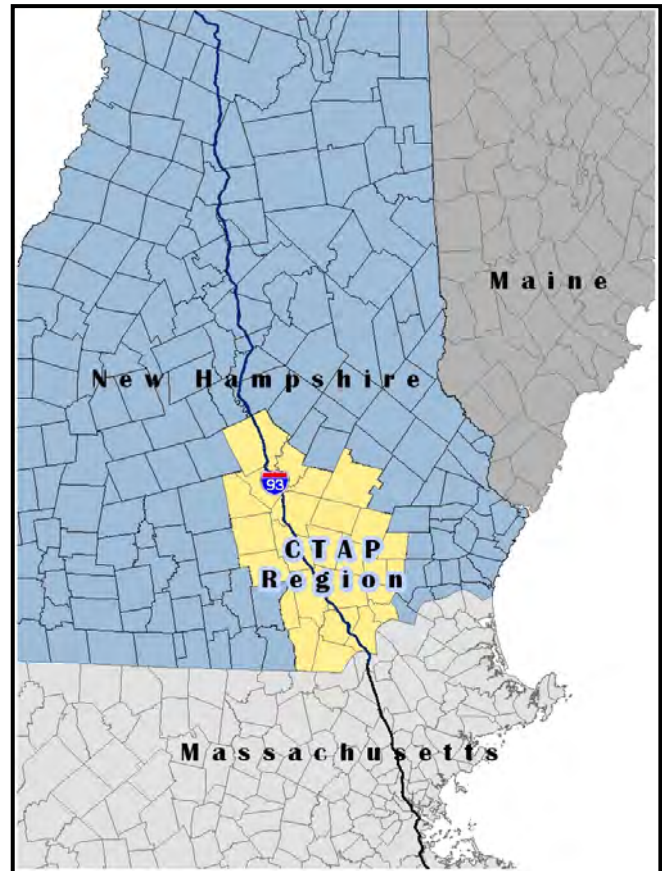
What is CTAP?

CTAP is a joint effort between the 26 communities in the corridor, state agencies, regional planning commissions, and several non-profit organizations. The purpose of CTAP is to promote beneficial growth patterns and development practices that minimize the negative effects of growth on community services, remaining open space, schools, traffic patterns, environmental quality, and existing residential and commercial development. The CTAP initiative consists of several projects, one of which is a buildout analysis. A standardized buildout analysis will be completed for each of the 26 CTAP communities.

What is a Buildout?

A buildout is a tool that allows planners to estimate future development based on different scenarios. This buildout is an analysis of existing adopted municipal policy. The buildout method allows for the potential testing of alternative land use regulation, open space planning and major development scenarios. A buildout consists of one

The Buildout analysis shows the maximum growth that is likely to occur in a community under current land use regulations (zoning).



or more scenarios. This buildout contains three scenarios: base, standard alternative, and community alternative. The process is designed with the capability for conducting future alternative scenario testing.

Comparing various scenarios allows planners to test the effects and consequences of new zoning ordinances. Changing setbacks, densities, and building restrictions can significantly alter a buildout. The analysis of results allows planners to evaluate the effectiveness and viability of changes to the zoning code. Questions that can be answered by a buildout scenario testing include: Where do I want my community to be at buildout? How much open space will there be? What will the traffic patterns look like? What will the quality of our environmental resources be like? Where will people live and what will the development patterns look like? The purpose of CTAP is to promote beneficial answers to all of these

questions. The CTAP program aims to achieve goals that cover four themes: community infrastructure, environment protection, land use, and open space, downtown/village centers and community vitality and the local economy. The CTAP Buildout project is a community empowerment tool to help people make the best long-term planning decisions.

What a Buildout is not?

A Buildout is not a prediction of what will occur. It is a planning tool to allow community decision makers to understand the impacts of growth under a set of land use rules. In addition, the Community Specified scenarios in this report do not necessarily represent official policy goals or a plan for the community, but are merely a test of one alternative growth scenario.

Scenario Planning

Scenarios are an analysis about what might be. They are not predictions about what will happen but they are possible futures based on what already exists, on current trends, and on the values and on the preferences of a community. Each community is unique and may have different goals and face

different challenges to how it will change over time. The scenarios in this report are based on both standardized methods, repeated for each CTAP Community, and a scenario where the details have been specified by community leaders and stakeholders. The scenarios are built as a way to compare outcomes and learn about the potential effects of government policies over a long span of time. Because the analysis is quantitative, scenarios can be compared directly utilizing charts and maps. The point is to help discover which long-term growth scenarios our preferable and most closely match the goals and values of the community.

Report Template

The format of this report is a template that will be used to uniformly present the buildout results for each of the 26 communities in the CTAP Region. Maps, charts and a few paragraphs of text will change for each community. This report presents only the results of the buildout scenarios. It does not attempt to be a planning analysis of those results. Each Community Report will contain the same Introduction and Overview sections on the process. Only maps, charts and the Community Scenario section will change for each different community.

Buildout questions:

- **Where do I want my community to be at buildout?**
- **How much open space will there be?**
- **What will the traffic patterns look like?**
- **What will the quality of our environmental resources be like?**
- **Where will people live and what will the development patterns look like?**



Methods

Tools and Data

Buildouts were conducted using Geographic Information systems (GIS) software. The application used for this project is developed by the mapping software company ESRI. ArcMap and CommunityViz are the core programs used in the analysis. The CommunityViz program is an extension that works with ArcMap and is used specifically to perform buildout analyses. CommunityViz was developed by the Orton Family Foundation in order to provide communities with an affordable tool to perform buildout studies.

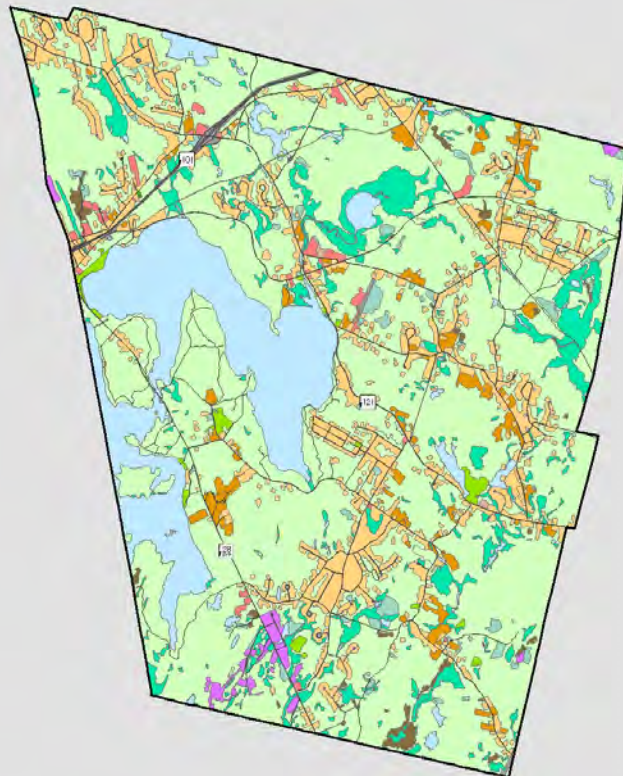
The GIS data used in this study originates from several sources. The base shapefiles (road centerlines, conservation lands, wetlands, etc.) were provided by GRANIT, the official New Hampshire GIS data provider. The land use polygons were created through a prior CTAP project, using 2005 aerial images provided by the NH Department of Transportation. The classification applied to the land use polygons is very detailed, using over 50 land uses. The current building points were also determined using the 2005 aerial images.



CTAP Existing Land Use

Land Use

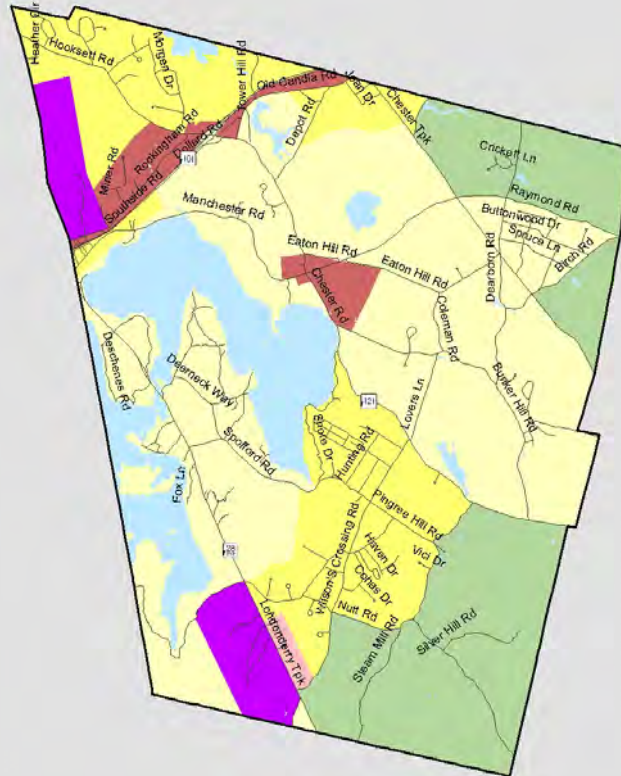
- Multi-family Residential
- Single Family Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Transportation, Communication and Utilities
- Mixed Uses
- Outdoor Recreation
- Cemeteries
- Agricultural Land
- Brush/Transitional Land
- Forest Land
- Water
- Wetlands
- Disturbed Land





Auburn Zoning

- Lakes/Ponds
- Zoning**
- Commercial 1
- Commercial 2
- Industrial
- Residential 1
- Residential 2
- Rural



Procedures

To complete the buildouts a CTAP Buildout Working Group was established. Members of the group consisted of the Four Regional Planning Commissions, who would be performing the analysis: Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, Nashua Regional Planning Commission, Rockingham Regional Planning Commission & Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. This group was responsible for defining the tools, methods and procedures for performing the buildouts. The group is also responsible for the format of the presentation of results. Staff from each Regional Planning Commission conducted the buildout for communities in their region.

All CTAP buildouts follow the same basic procedures allowing them to be combined upon completion. The existing data used for each municipality is obtained from statewide layers, and clipped for each town. The data created for the buildout follows a strict set of guidelines in order to produce a uniform set for the CTAP region.

CommunityViz software uses the land use and zoning inputs with the constraint layers to create a buildable area GIS layer. First a numeric buildout is calculated using lot size and allowable density information. Next a spatial buildout is conducted. This process takes into account spatial restrictions (i.e. Setbacks from roads, distance between buildings). The spatial restrictions for the base buildout are determined using the current zoning ordinances. This produces a layer of new estimated buildings and places them as points

Map layers used in the Buildout Analysis.

Land use inputs:

- CTAP Land Use - based on 2005 Aerial Imagery
- Zoning
- Current Building points - based on 2005 Aerial Imagery
- Community Centers - NHDES Sprawl Indicators data, NH GRANIT
- Road Centerlines - NHDOT, NH GRANIT
- Transit Stops - Derived from local data
- Sewer Service Areas - NHDES, NH GRANIT

Constraint layers:

- Wetlands, National Wetland Inventory (NWI) - NH GRANIT
- 100-Year Floodplain - FEMA, NH GRANIT
- Conservation Lands - Local data & NH GRANIT
- Natural Services Network (NSN) - Jordan Institute, NH GRANIT

on the map. Standard Alternative and Community Alternative Buildouts using the same process with adjustments to the land use rules (Zoning changes, allowable uses & allowable densities) that are specified in those scenarios.

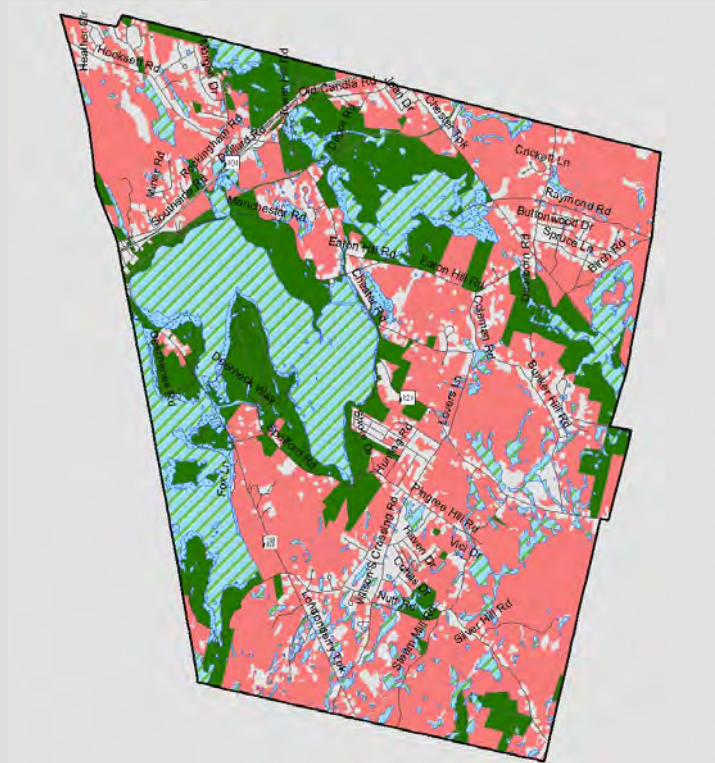
Once the buildout is complete, a template, containing all assumptions, indicators and charts is applied. All indicators are calculated from the basic buildout results. The standard template ensures that the calculations and charts are the same for all of the region's buildouts.

Detailed input and output reports, produced directly from the CommunityViz software, are available in Appendix A.



Developable Lands & Constraints

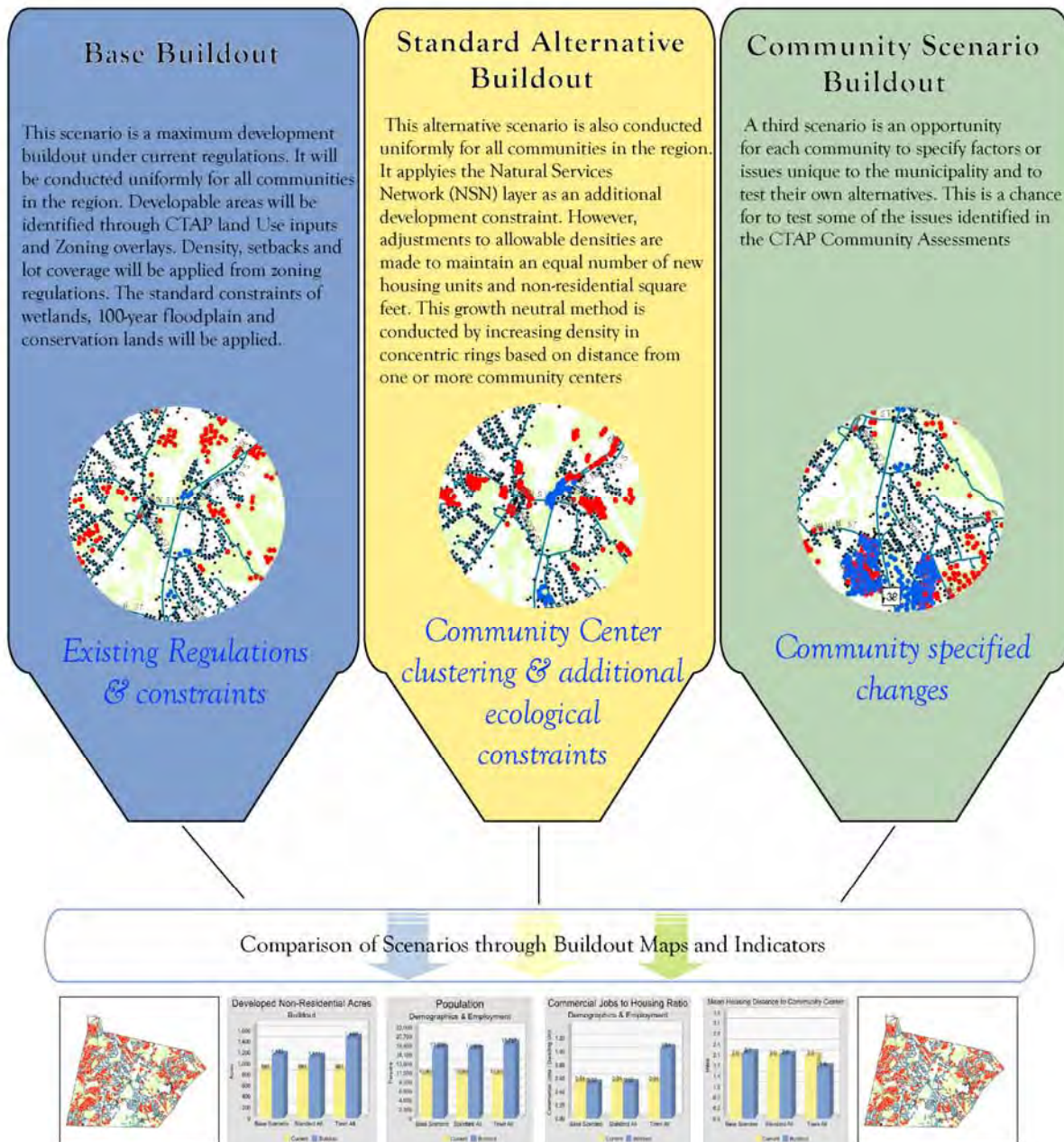
-  National Wetlands Inventory
-  100yr Floodplain
-  Conservation Lands
-  Buildable Lands





Buildout Scenarios

This report tests and compares three alternative scenarios for growth. Each scenario produces different land use patterns, different densities and different development totals. The mix of jobs and housing, available open space, traffic, schools, water and air quality and community character are all impacted in different ways. By comparing the maps and charts produced by each scenario, a community can analyze how that growth pattern will affect their city of town.



Base Scenario

The first scenario, conducted for all communities, is the Base Scenario. This scenario represents what buildout would look like following the current land use regulations. Density, setbacks and lot coverage is applied from the current zoning regulations. The standard development constraints of wetlands, 100-year floodplain and conservation lands are applied.

If current zoning is a blueprint for how the community should grow then this scenario is the culmination of the existing regulations. The indicators in this report are meant to portray a wide range of conditions at buildout. Development

growth means more than additional persons, houses or commercial buildings. It can have impacts on

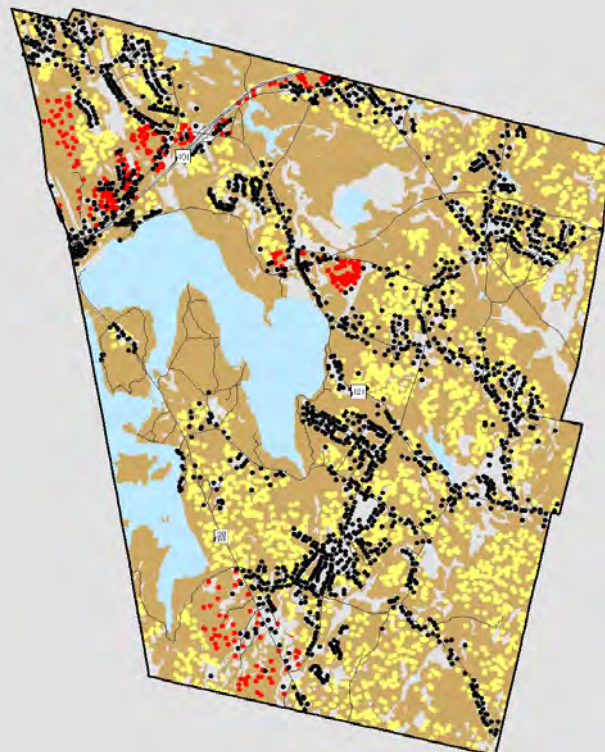
If current zoning is a blueprint for how the community should grow then the Base Buildout Scenario is the culmination of the existing regulations.

finances, traffic, municipal services, environmental quality and sense of community or place. The land use pattern for how a community grows, where development will take place and in what densities, can also have a significant impact.



Base Buildout

- Current Buildings
 - Lakes/Ponds
 - Buildable Lands
- Buildout Buildings**
- Commercial/Industrial
 - Single Family Residential



Standard Alternative

The standard alternative scenario will also be conducted uniformly for all communities in the region. The scenario is different from the Base Scenario in a couple of key ways. First, it applies the Natural Services Network (NSN) layer as an additional development constraint. Second, adjustments to allowable densities will be made to maintain an equal number of new housing units and non-residential square feet. This growth neutral method will be conducted by increasing density in concentric rings based on distance from one or more community centers.



This scenario is focused on creating densely developed downtown areas, sparing important ecological areas identified in the Natural Services

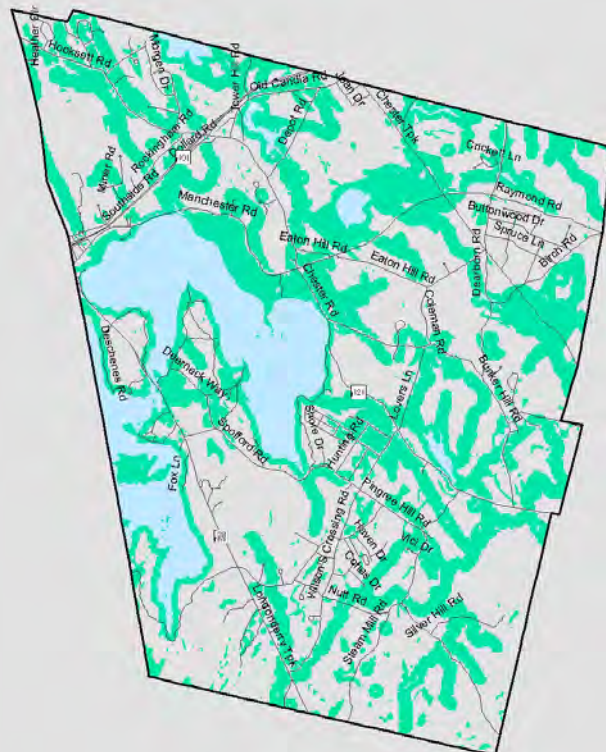
network (NSN). The NSN is a co-occurrence analysis and includes four components: water supply lands, flood storage lands, productive soils, and important wildlife habitat.

The Standard Alternative Scenario does not represent a policy proposal for the community. It is a standardized method to analyze an alternative growth scenario that can be applied uniformly to all CTAP communities.



Natural Services Network Constraint

-  Lakes/Ponds
-  Natural Services Network (NSN)



The key to the Standard Alternative Scenario is to adjust allowable development densities so that an approximately equal amount of growth occurs as the Base Buildout despite the fact that more land has been set aside as un-buildable. This scenario is applying a standardized, uniform growth alternative to all communities in the CTAP region. It is not

limiting the amount of commercial and residential growth that might occur in the community, but it is managing it differently.

Standard Alternative Scenario:

- NSN added as additional development constraint.
- Greater density around community centers.
- Same amount of growth as base scenario



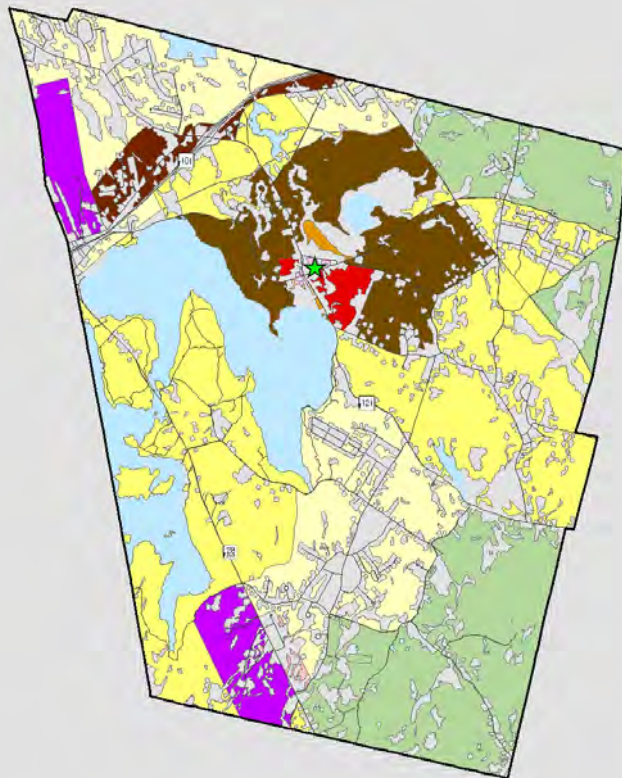
Standard Alternative Density Changes

★ Community Center

☁ Lakes/Ponds

Buildable Lands

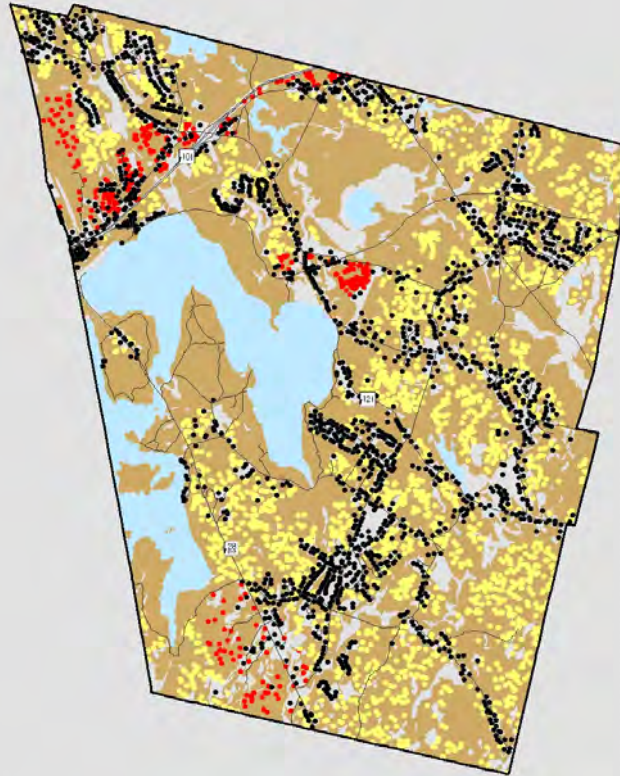
- Commercial 1-outside 1 mile
- Commercial 2-outside 1 mile
- Commercial 2-within 1/2 mile
- Commercial 2-within 1/4 mile
- Industrial-outside 1 mile
- Residential 1-outside 1 mile
- Residential 2-outside 1 mile
- Residential 2-within 1 mile
- Residential 2-within 1/2 mile
- Residential 2-within 1/4 mile
- Rural-outside 1 mile





Standard Alternative Buildout

- Current Buildings
 - Lakes/Ponds
 - Buildable Lands
- Buildout Buildings**
- Commercial/Industrial
 - Single Family Residential



Community Scenario

A third scenario was provided for each community to specify factors or issues unique to the municipality and to test their own alternatives. This scenario is known as the **community scenario**. This is a chance

The Community scenario is only a test of an alternative growth pattern. It is a planning tool conducted to see what changes might occur. It does not necessarily represent a policy plan for the community











for certain properties to be removed or added to the developable areas list or for particular regulation changes to be implemented. In order to get the

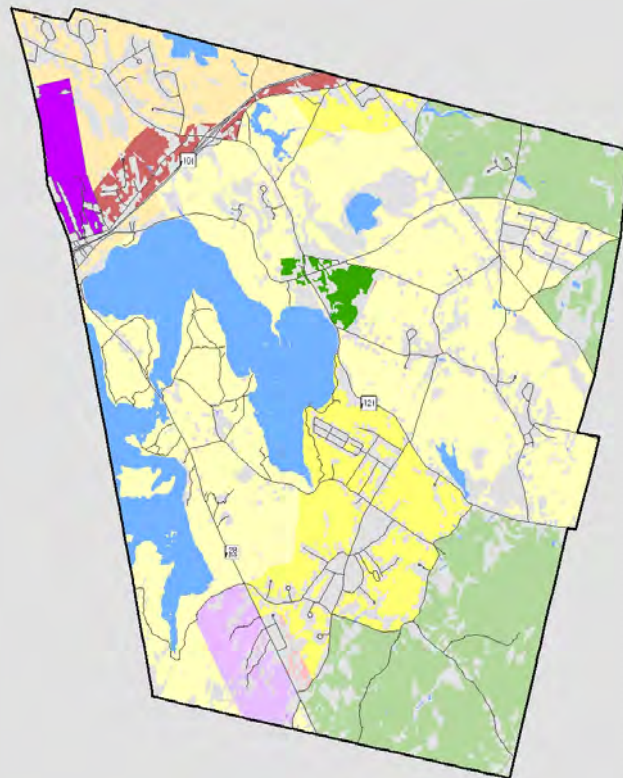
community's input for their scenario, meetings were conducted with local officials and volunteers. This was an opportunity for the community leaders to test what would occur if their Town or City were to grow in a different way. This is a chance to apply goals specified in Master Plan or other planning document, or to test the affects of purchasing large tracts of land for conservation.

The Community Scenario is only a test of an alternative growth pattern. It is a planning tool conducted to see what changes might occur. It does not necessarily represent a policy plan for the community. Unlike the Standard Alternative Scenario, the Community Scenario does not require growth to be the equal to the Base Buildout. Significantly lower or greater amounts of development are possible.



Community Scenario

-  Lakes/Ponds
- Buildable Lands**
-  Commercial 1
-  Commercial 2
-  Industrial
-  Industrial - Future Sewer Expansion
-  Proposed Village Area
-  Residential 1
-  Residential 1 - Future Water/Sewer Expansion
-  Residential 2
-  Rural



The Auburn Community Scenario is based on the future expansion of municipal water/sewer service to a proposed village district and the northwest area of town.

A proposed mixed use village district would be located near the community center, which is currently zoned as Commercial 2. A mixed use village would encourage dense commercial and residential development near the center of town. This type of development is cost effective and beneficial because it promotes the preservation of open space and a clearly defined community center.

This buildout exercise assumed that the proposed mixed use village district had municipal water/sewer service. The dimensional requirements were based on a presentation from Stantec entitled "Proposed Mixed Use Village Zoning District". Single family

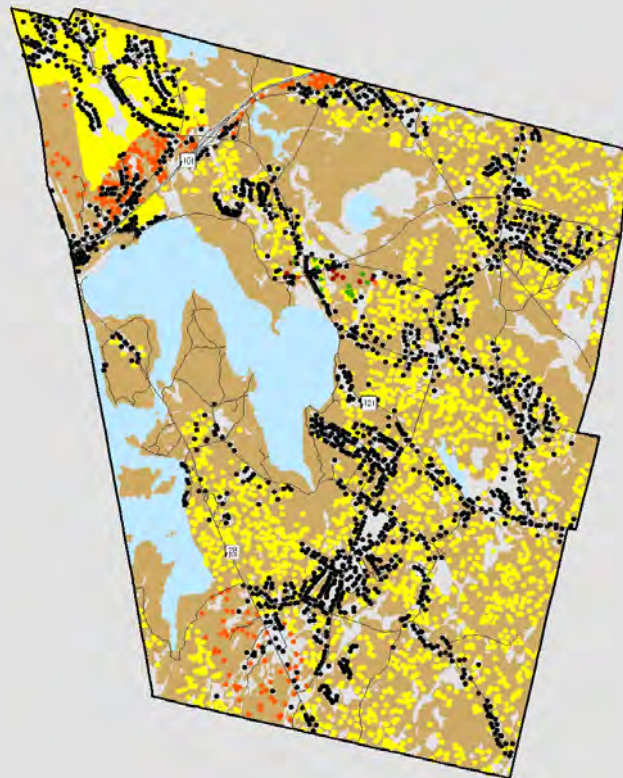
residential minimum lot size was 10,000 ft² or 0.23 acres. Multi-family minimum lot size was 87,120 ft² or 2 acres. Mixed use and commercial buildings were also incorporated into this zone.

The density was also increased in the northwest area of town, it was assumed to have future municipal water and sewer service. A portion of this area is zoned Residential 1 and the minimum lot size would be 10,000 ft² or 0.23 acres. Part of the area is also zoned for Industrial uses. The floor area ratio (FAR) was calculated to be 0.03 based upon a minimum lot size of 10,000 ft².



Town Alternative Buildout

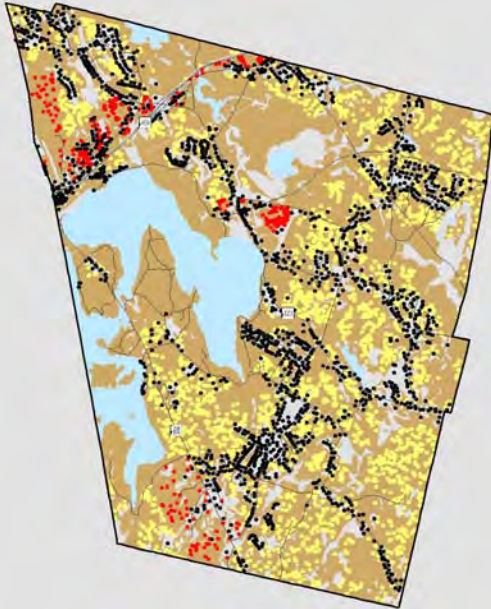
- Current Buildings
- Buildable Lands
- Lakes/Ponds
- Buildout Buildings**
 - Single Family Residential
 - Multi-Family Residential
 - Mixed Use
 - Non-Residential



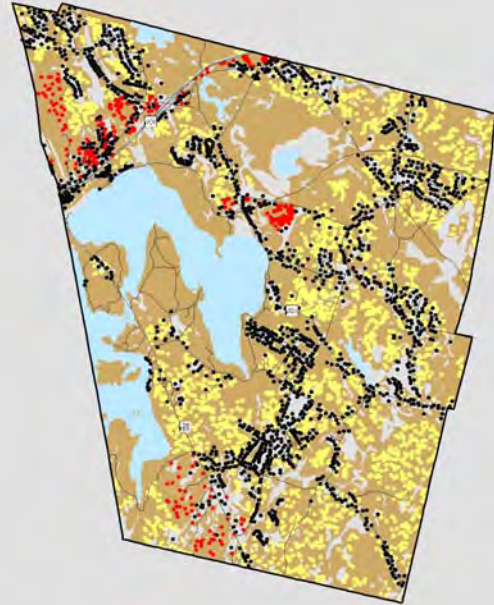


Buildout Scenario Comparison

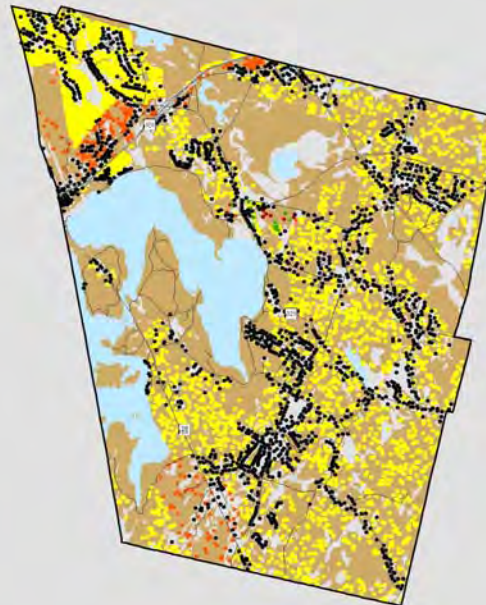
Base Buildout



Standard Alternative



Community Scenario



- Current Buildings
- Buildable Lands
- Lakes/Ponds
- Buildout Buildings**
 - Single Family Residential
 - Multi-Family Residential
 - Mixed Use
 - Non-Residential



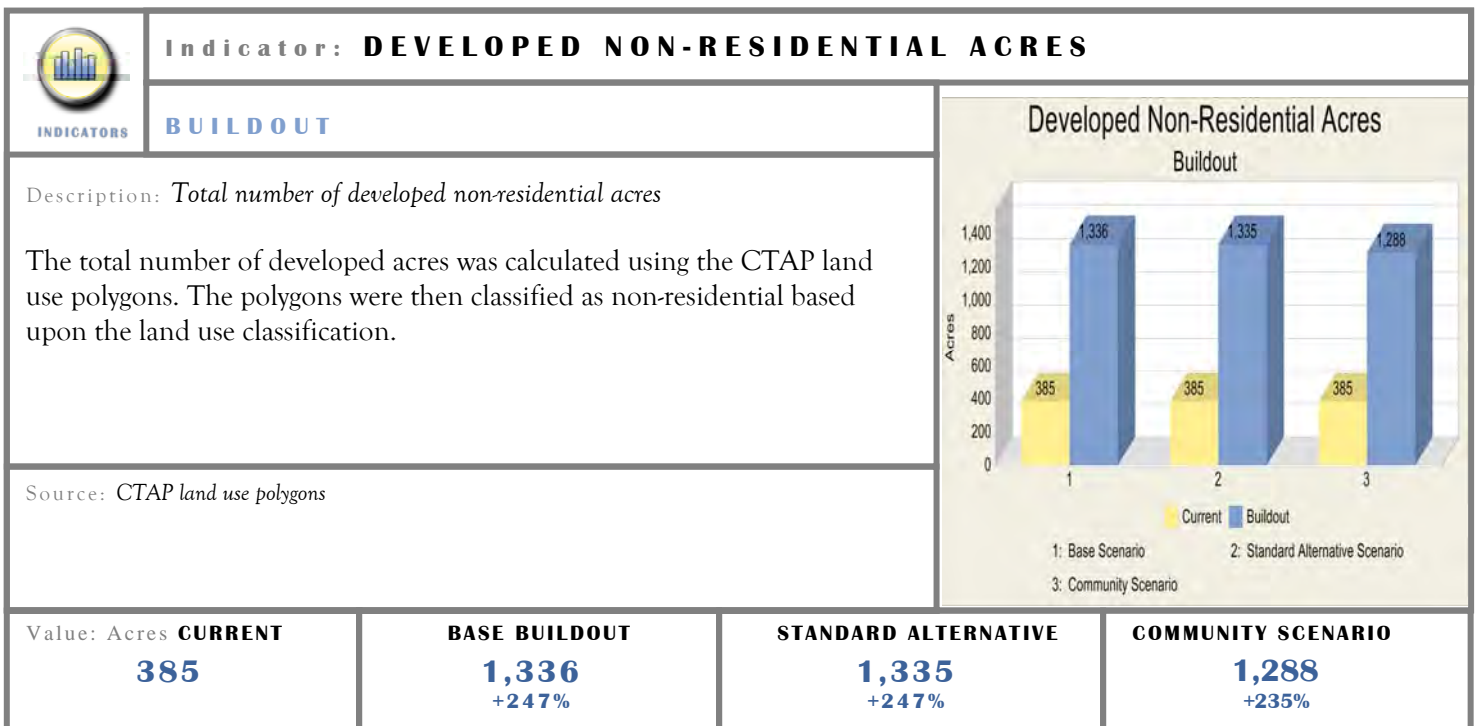
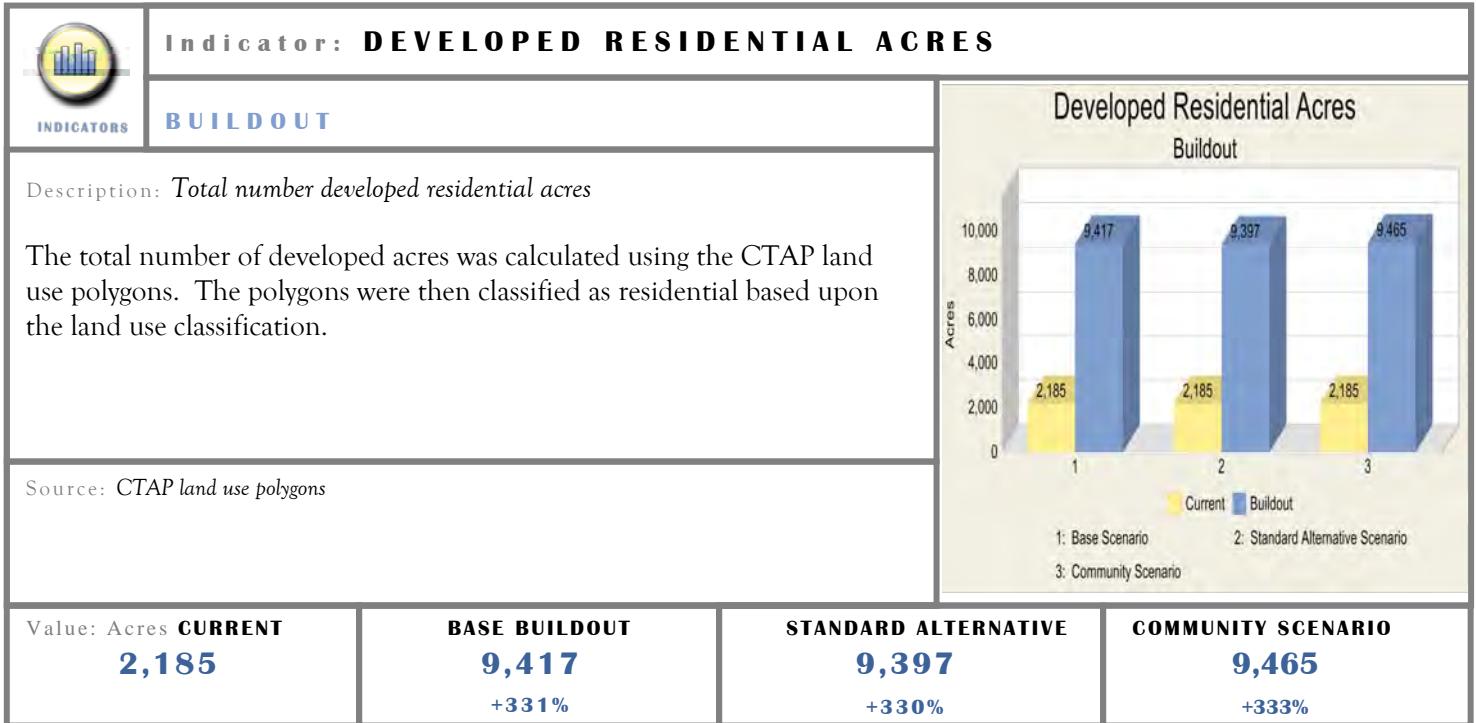
In Indicators

Indicators are impact or performance measures that help people choose alternatives that best match their objectives or desired outcomes. An indicator is a calculated value that represents the impacts or outcomes of a scenario. An indicator might be used to evaluate costs, revenues, average household size, or total daily auto trips. The buildout indicators in this report are meant to provide a macro, overall picture of how a community could look at buildout.

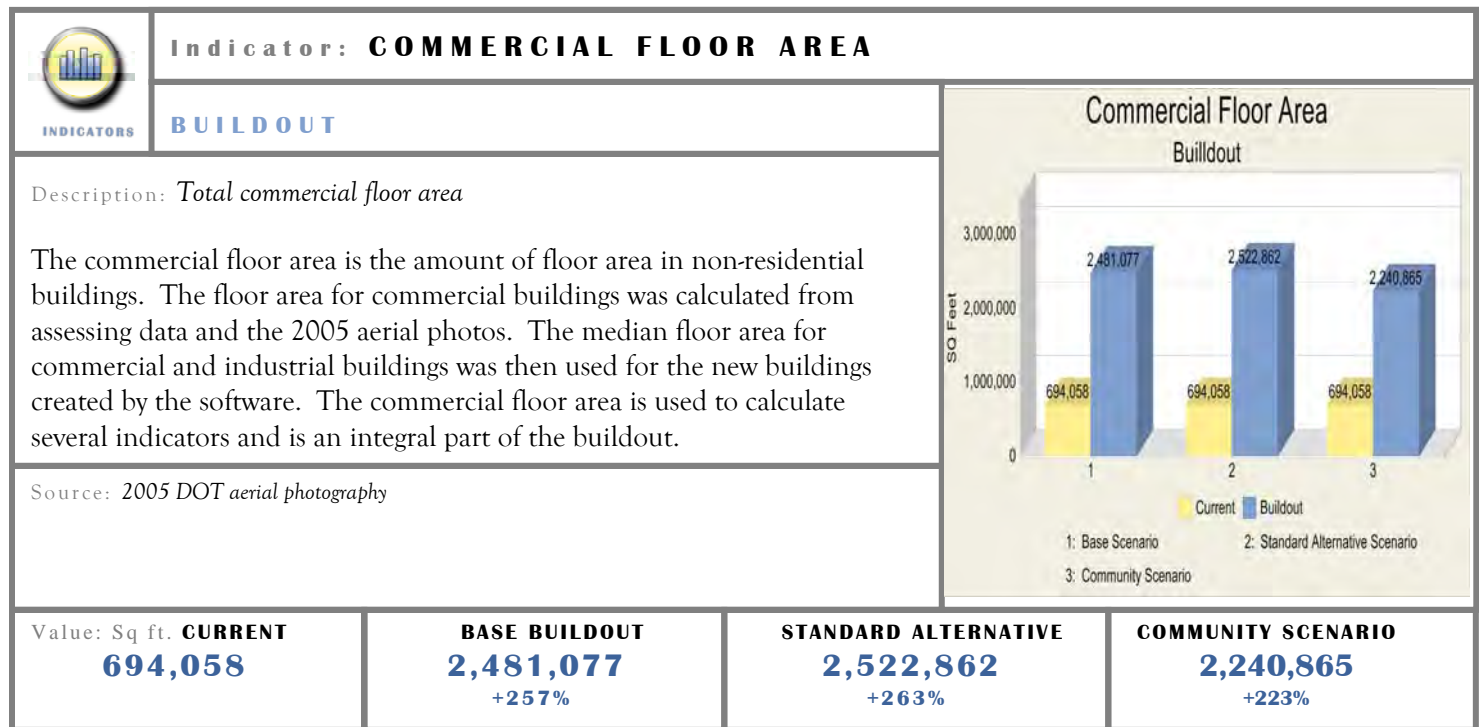
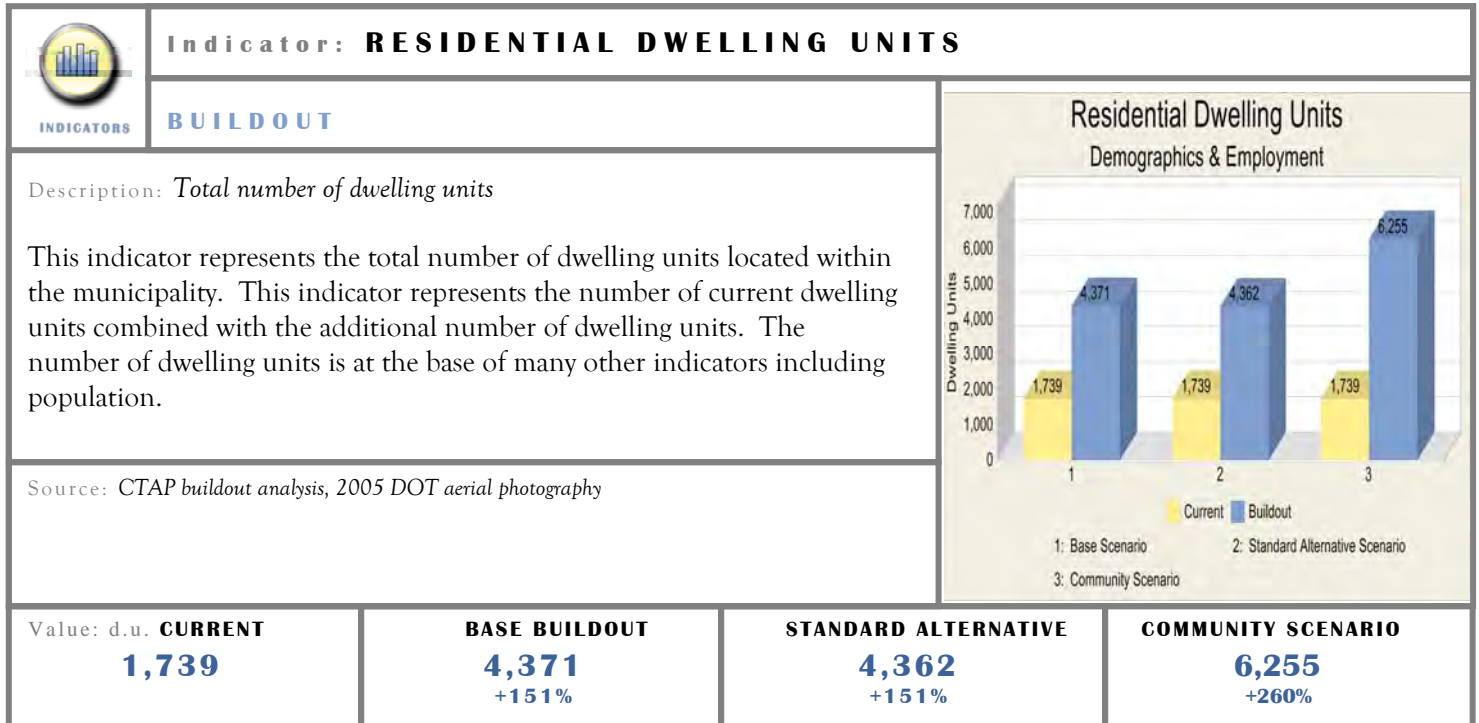
Comparing indicators by the different buildout scenarios provides an assessment of the effects different development patterns may have. There are 40 indicators arranged in seven categories: Buildout, Demographics & Employment, Environmental & Open Space, Land Use Characteristics, Municipal Demands, Water & Energy Use & Transportation. The following pages explain what each indicator means and chart the differences by scenario.

Category	Indicator	Units	Current	Base Buildout	Percent Change	Standard Alternative Scenario	Percent Change	Community Scenario	Percent Change
Buildout	Developed Residential Acres	Acres	2,185	9,417	331%	9,397	330%	9,465	333%
	Developed Non-Residential Acres	Acres	385	1,336	247%	1,335	247%	1,288	235%
	Residential Dwelling Units	d.u.'s	1,739	4,371	151%	4,362	151%	6,255	260%
	Commercial Floor Area	sq. ft	694,058	2,481,077	257%	2,522,662	263%	2,240,865	223%
Demographics & Employment	Population	Persons	4,452	11,190	151%	11,167	151%	16,013	260%
	School Kids Population	School Kids	841	2,115	151%	2,111	151%	3,026	260%
	Labor Force Population	Workers	1,820	4,575	151%	4,566	151%	6,548	260%
	Commercial Jobs	Jobs	843	3,015	258%	3,065	264%	2,723	223%
	Jobs to Housing Ratio	Jobs/d.u.	0.48	0.69	44%	0.7	46%	0.44	-8%
Environmental & Open Space	Open Space Supply	Acres	15,670	7,487	-52%	7,508	-52%	7,487	-52%
	Impervious Surfaces	Percent	3	12.1	303%	12.1	303%	12	300%
Land Use Characteristics	Total Density	Persons/m ²	155	388	150%	388	150%	558	260%
	Residential Housing Density	d.u./Acre	0.8	0.46	-43%	0.46	-43%	0.66	-18%
	Residential Development Footprint	Acres/d.u.	1.26	2.15	71%	2.15	71%	1.51	20%
	Recreation Density	Ft ² /person	1,148	457	-60%	457	-60%	319	-72%
	Housing Proximity to Recreation	Miles	0.66	0.73	11%	0.74	12%	0.85	29%
	Housing Proximity to Community Centers	Miles	2.2	2.4	9%	2.4	9%	2.4	9%
	Housing Proximity to Amenities	Miles	0.69	0.71	3%	0.71	3%	0.87	26%
	Walkability	Percent	2.99	1.81	-39%	1.93	-35%	2.45	-18%
	Housing Proximity to Transit	Miles	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Municipal Demands	Employment Proximity to Transit	Miles	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Fire & Ambulance Service	Calls/Years	356	895	151%	893	151%	1,281	260%
	Police Service	Calls/Years	5,654	14,211	151%	14,182	151%	20,336	260%
Water & Energy Use	Solid Waste Demand	Annual Tons	2,404	6,042	151%	6,030	151%	8,647	260%
	Total Energy Use	mbtu/hh/yr	266,217	747,874	181%	751,465	182%	702,870	164%
	Residential Energy Use	mbtu/hh/yr	198,950	500,262	151%	499,683	151%	479,232	141%
	Commercial Energy Use	mbtu/hh/yr	69,267	247,612	257%	251,782	263%	223,638	223%
Transportation	Residential Water Use	mgals/yr	246	621	152%	620	152%	747	204%
	Vehicles	Vehicles	3,200	8,043	151%	8,026	151%	11,509	260%
	Vehicle Trips per Day	Trips/Day	16,381	41,524	153%	41,453	153%	51,819	216%
	Annual CO ₂ Auto Emissions	Grams/Yr	2,558,624	6,484,980	153%	6,475,304	153%	7,328,749	186%
	Annual CO ₂ Auto Emissions	Tons/Yr	53	134	153%	134	153%	151	185%
	Annual NO _x Auto Emissions	lbs	160,410	406,569	153%	405,963	153%	459,496	186%
	Annual Hydrocarbon Auto Emissions	Grams/Yr	323,182	819,124	153%	817,902	153%	925,701	186%

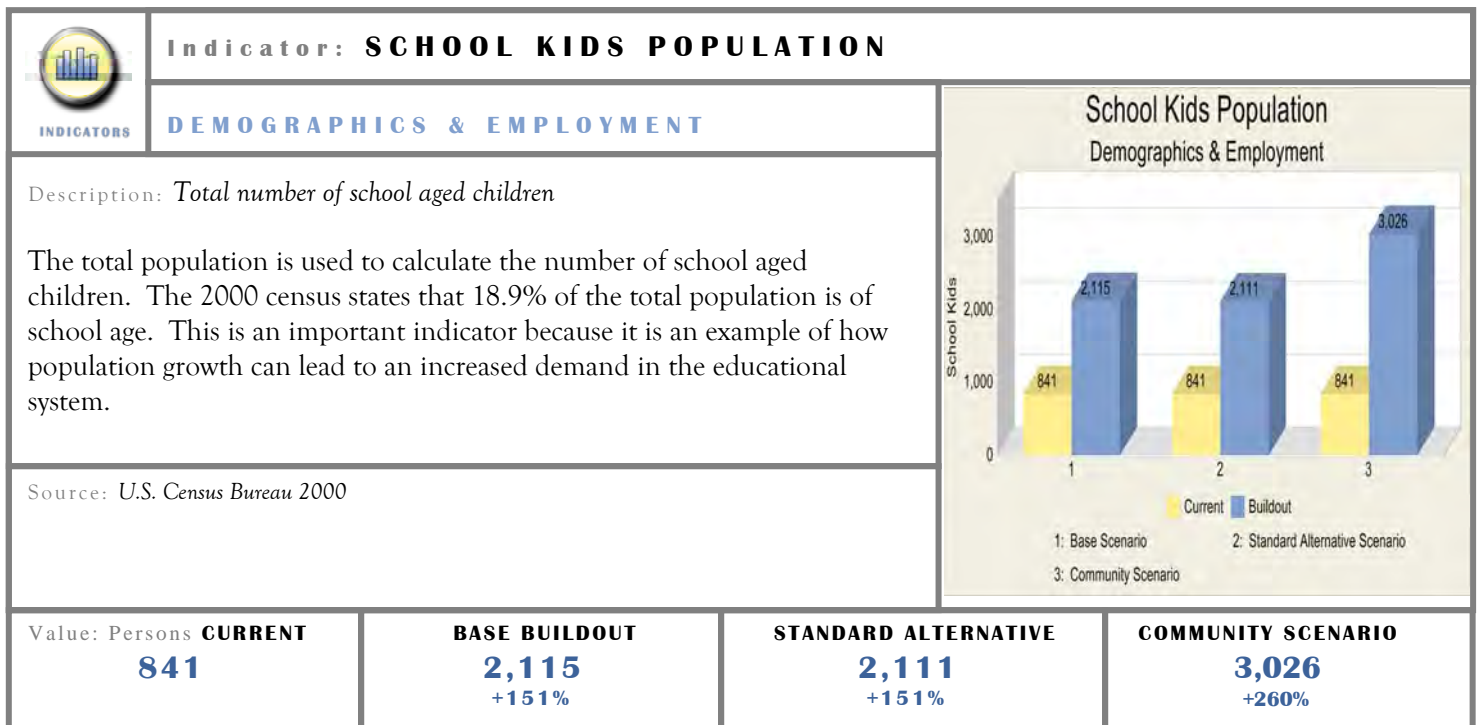
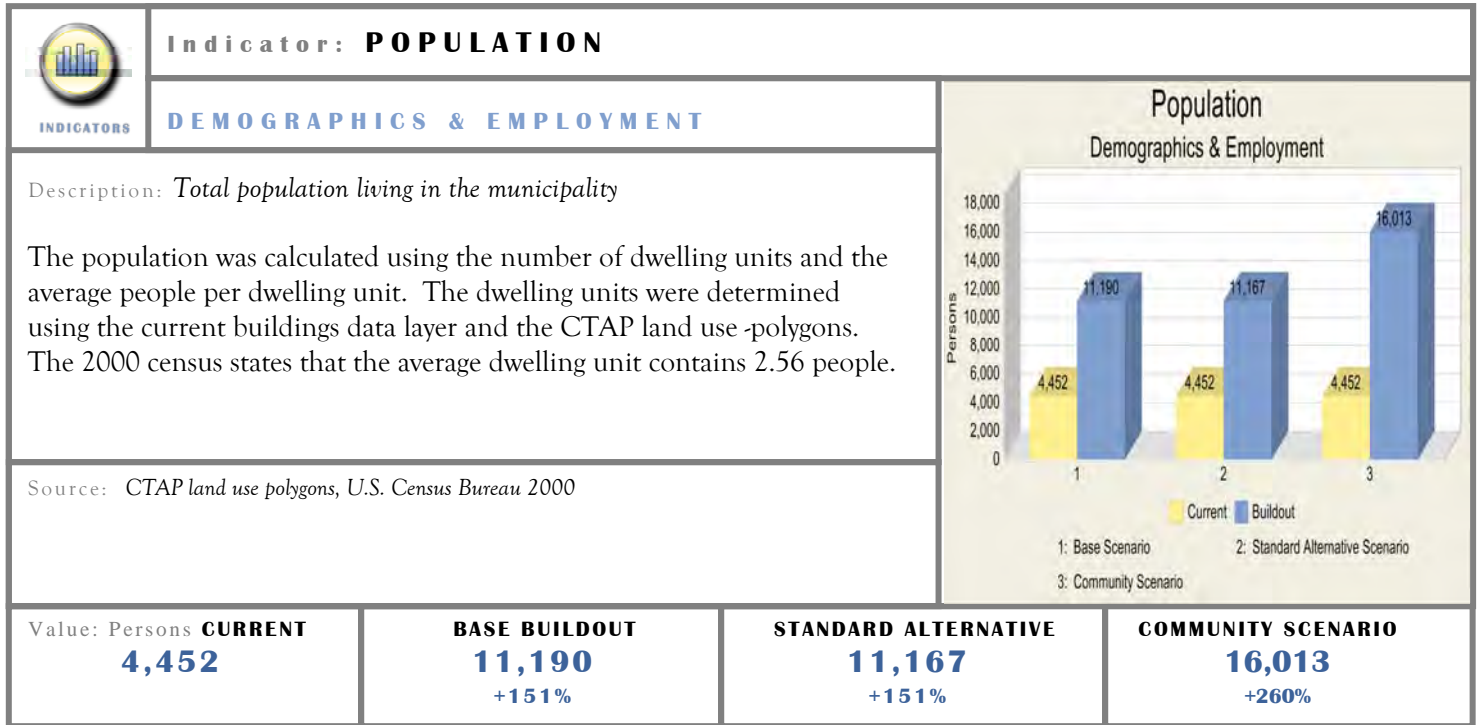
Indicators - BUILDOUT



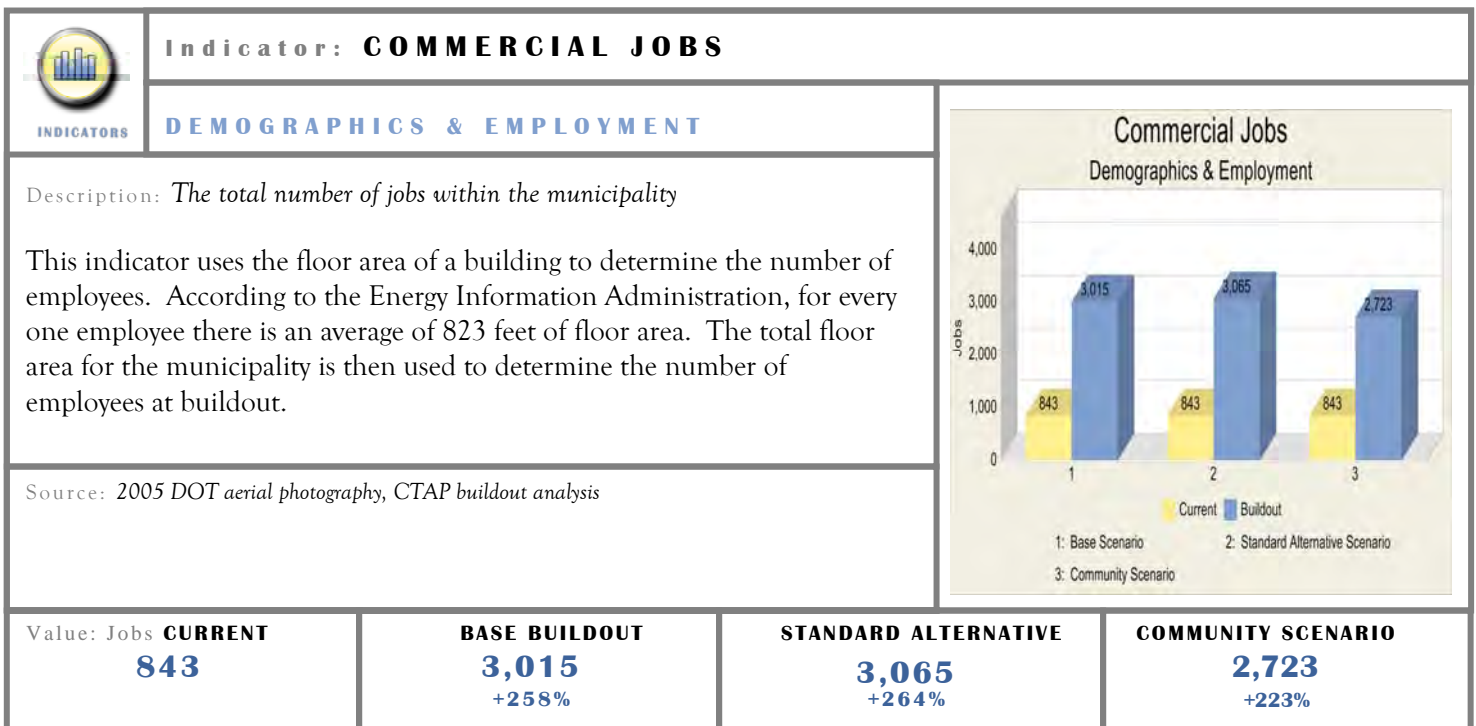
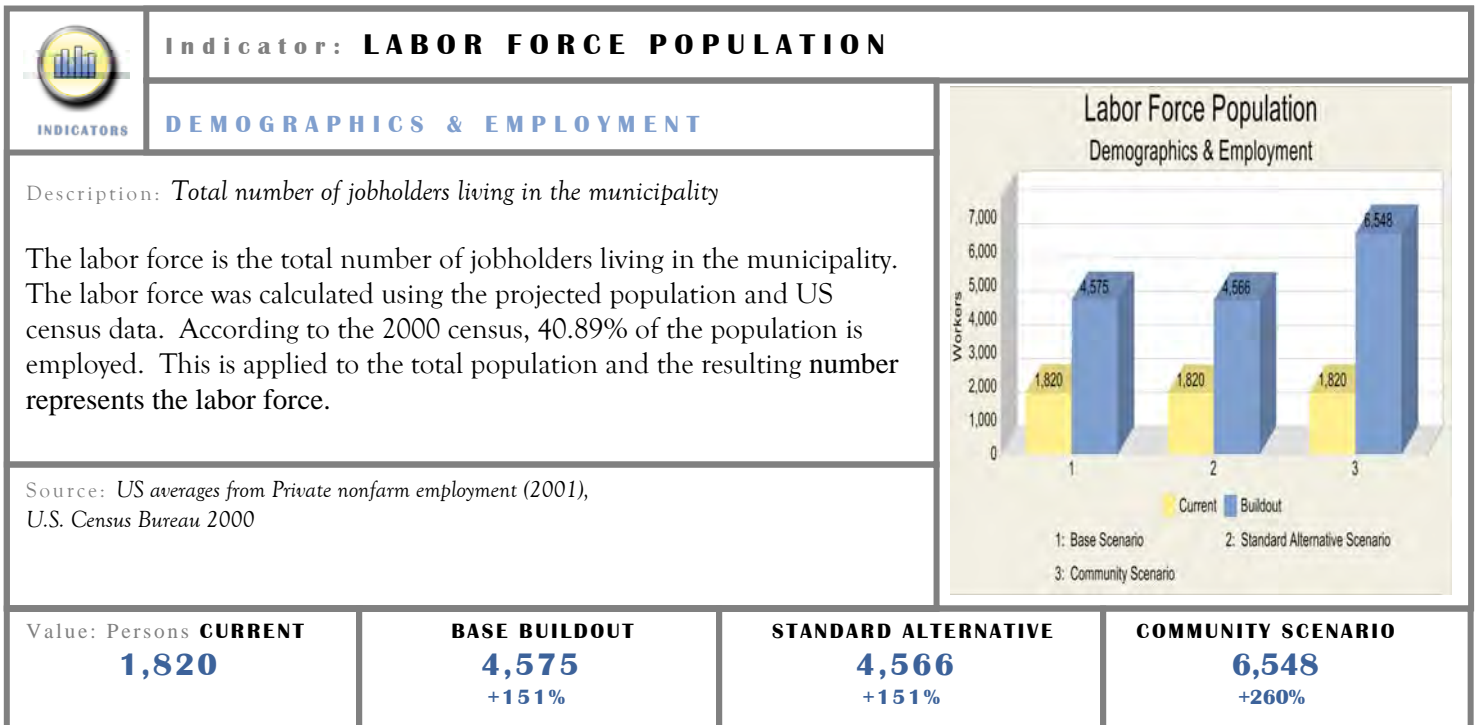
Indicators - BUILDOUT cont.




Indicators - DEMOGRAPHICS & EMPLOYMENT



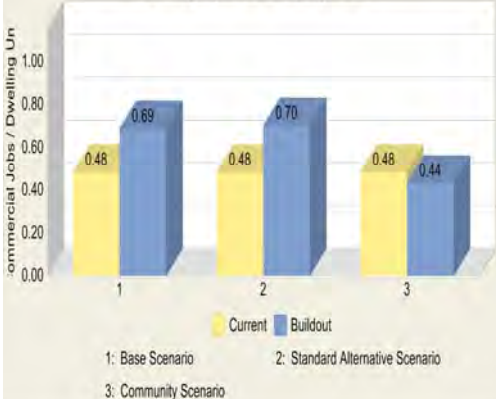
Indicators - DEMOGRAPHICS & EMPLOYMENT cont.



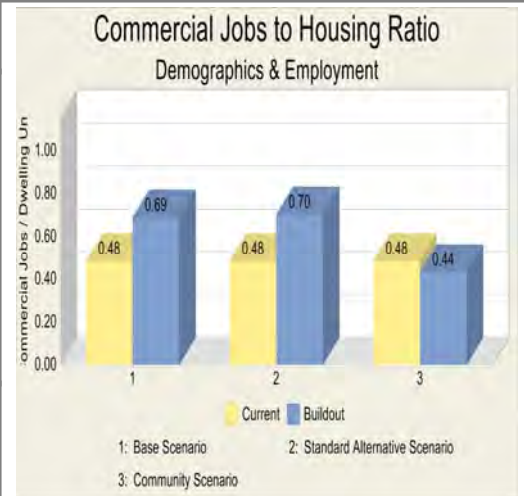
Indicators - DEMOGRAPHICS & EMPLOYMENT cont.

 INDICATORS	Indicator: JOBS TO HOUSING RATIO			
DEMOGRAPHICS & EMPLOYMENT				
<p>Description: <i>Number of commercial jobs per dwelling unit</i></p> <p>The commercial jobs to housing ratio is the number of jobs per dwelling unit. This indicator is a representation how many jobs are located in the municipality relative to the population.</p> <p>Source: CTAP buildout analysis</p>				
Value: Pers/job CURRENT 0.48	BASE BUILDOUT 0.69 +44%	STANDARD ALTERNATIVE 0.7 +46%	COMMUNITY SCENARIO 0.44 -8%	

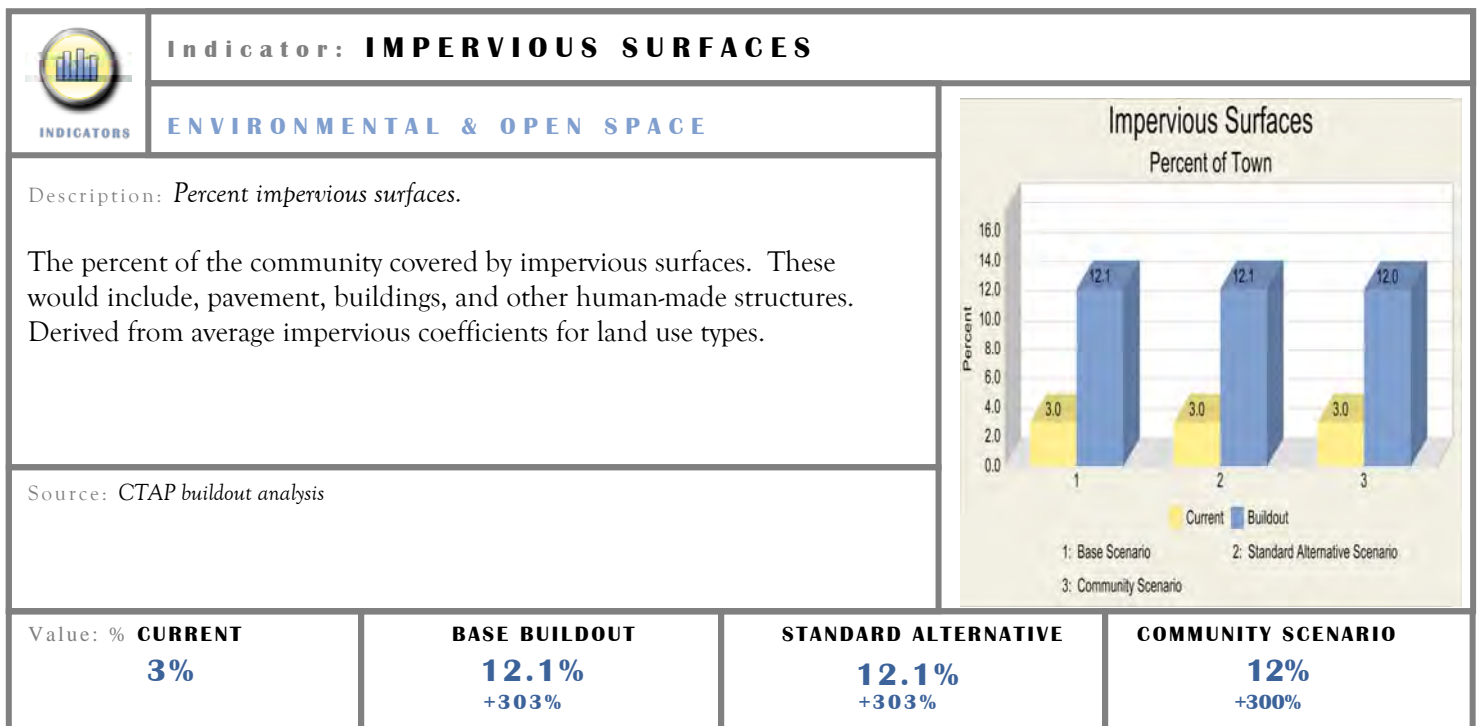
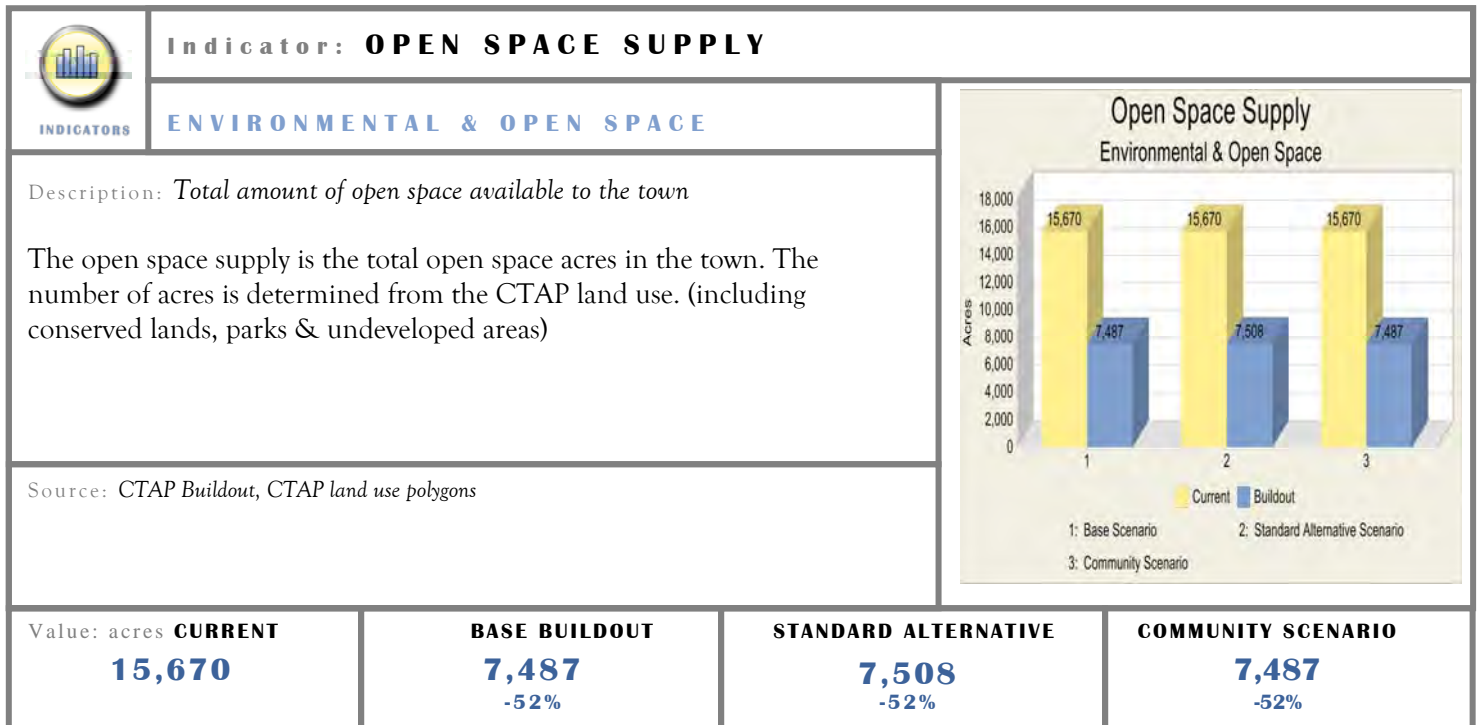
Commercial Jobs to Housing Ratio
Demographics & Employment



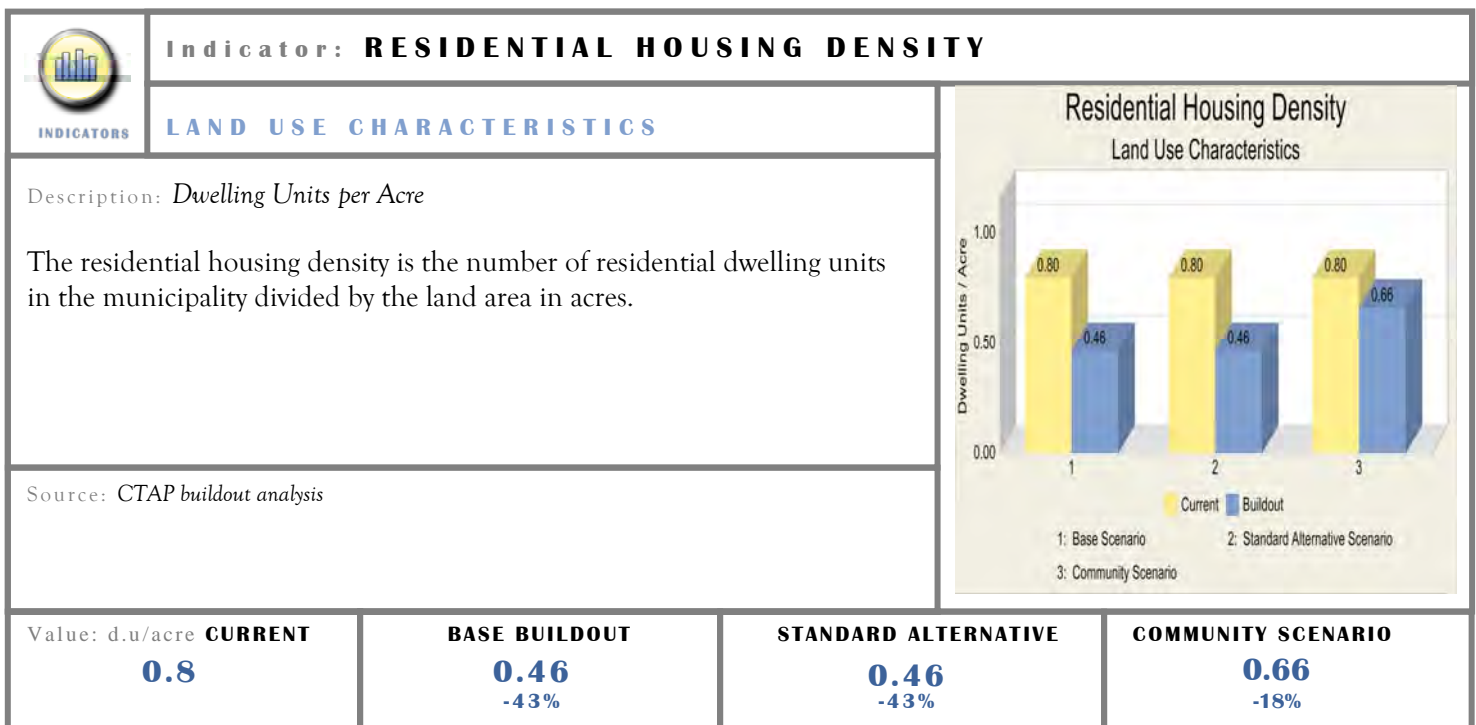
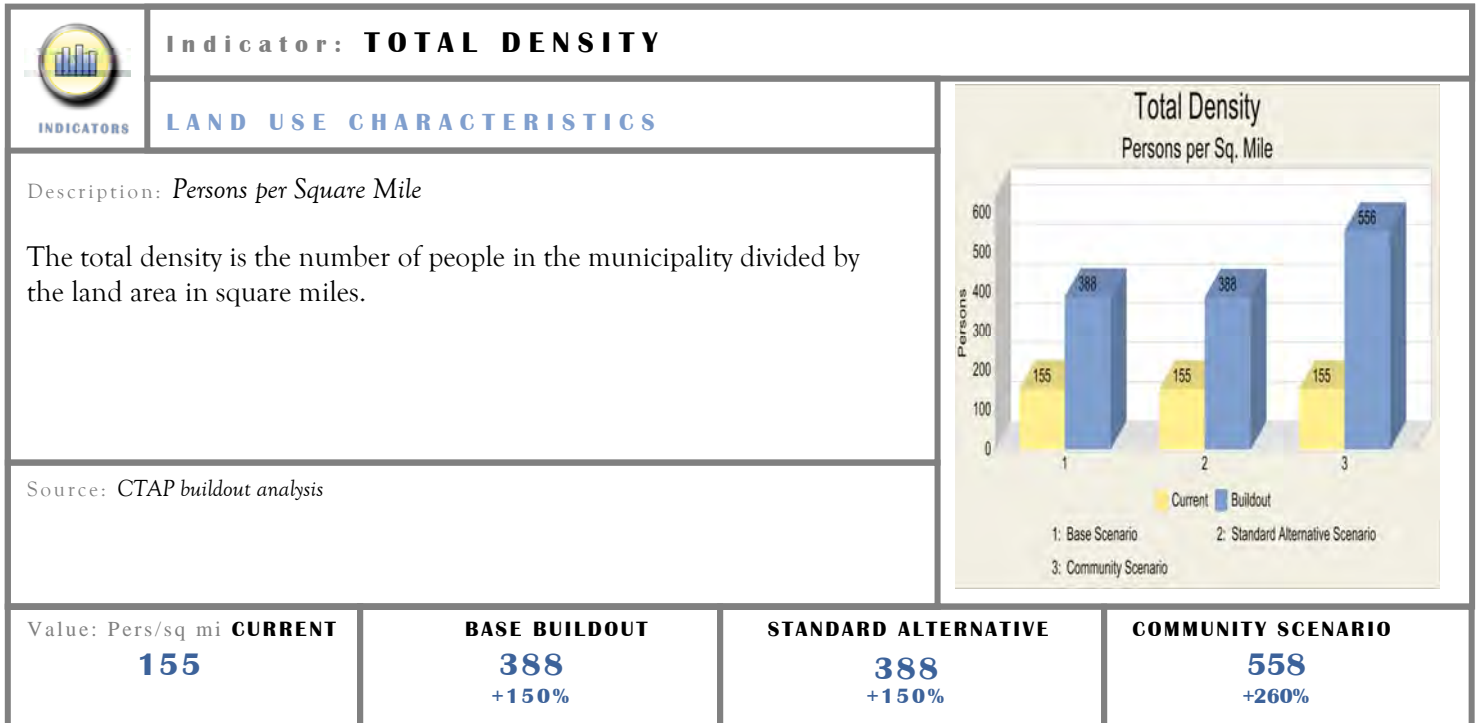
Scenario	Current	Buildout
1: Base Scenario	0.48	0.69
2: Standard Alternative Scenario	0.48	0.70
3: Community Scenario	0.48	0.44



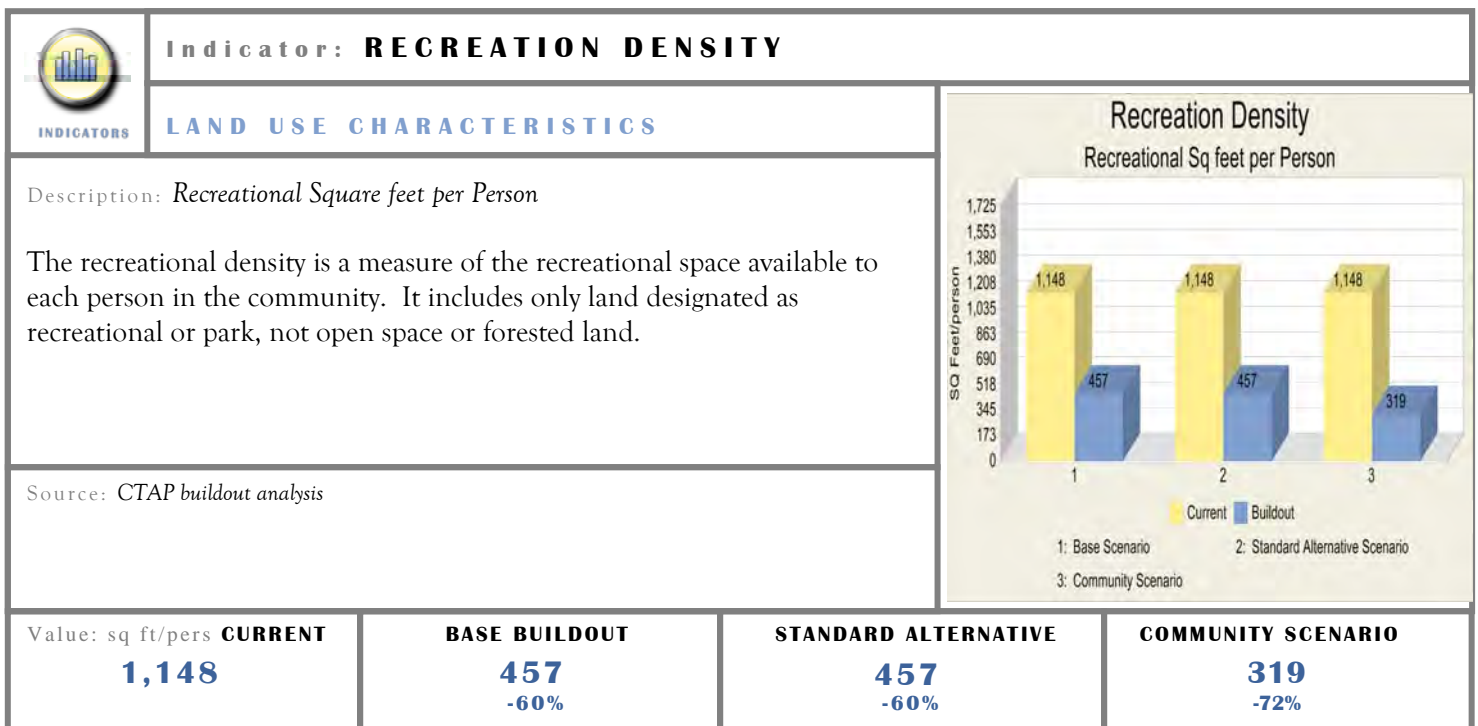
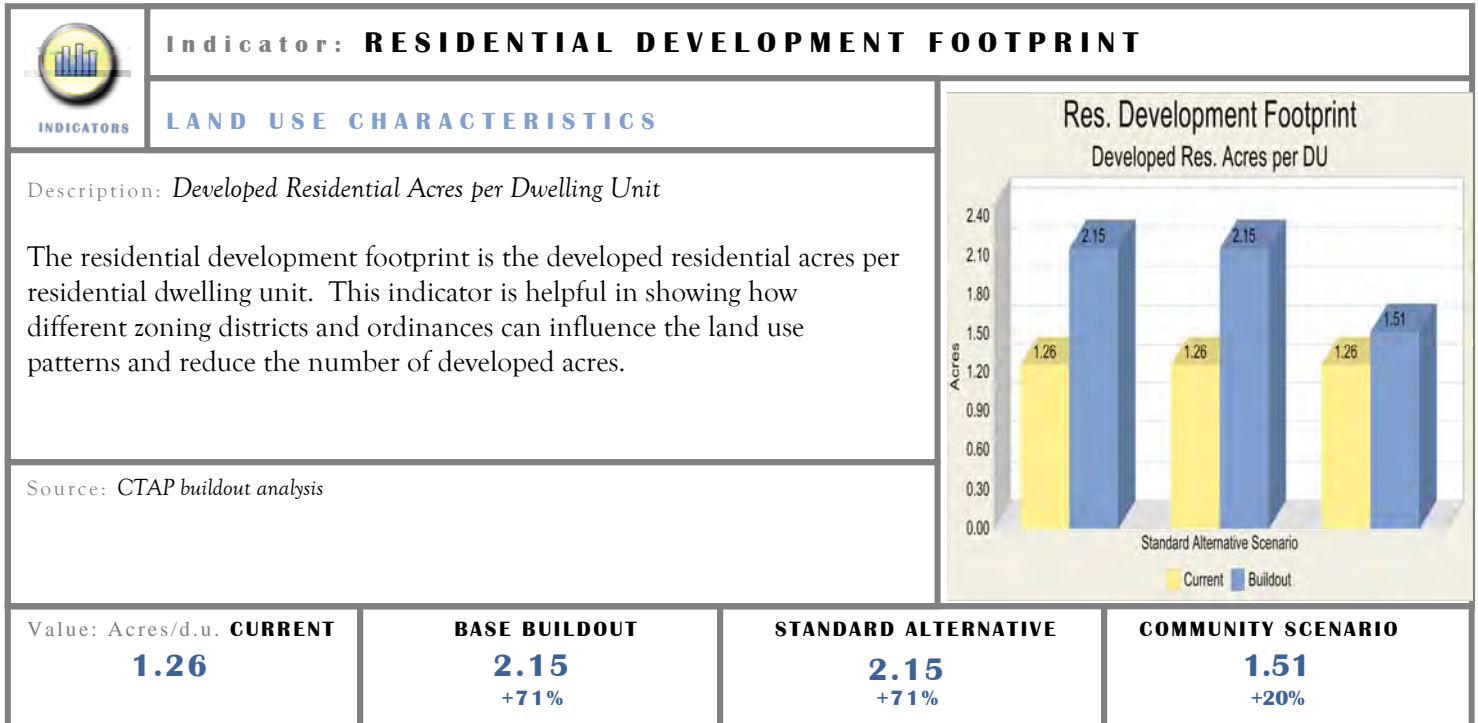
Indicators - ENVIRONMENTAL & OPEN SPACE



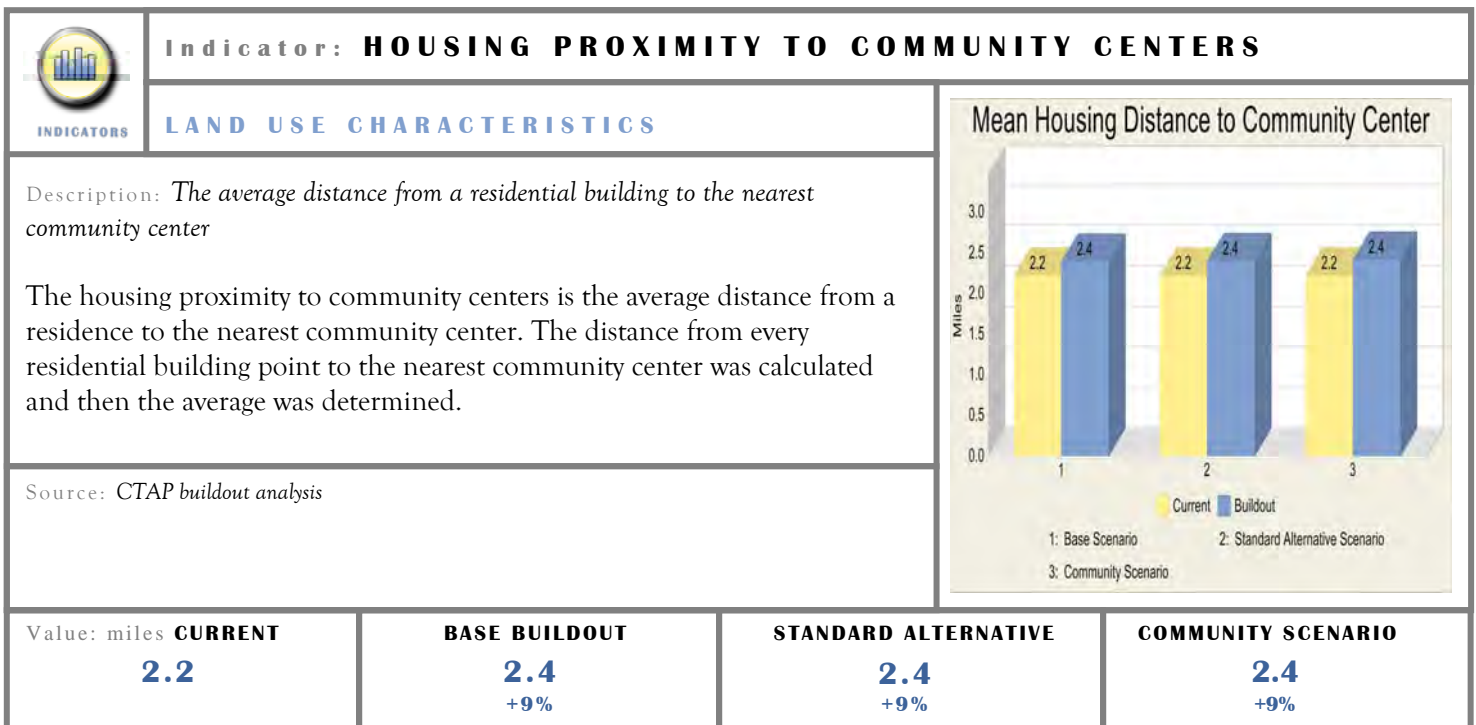
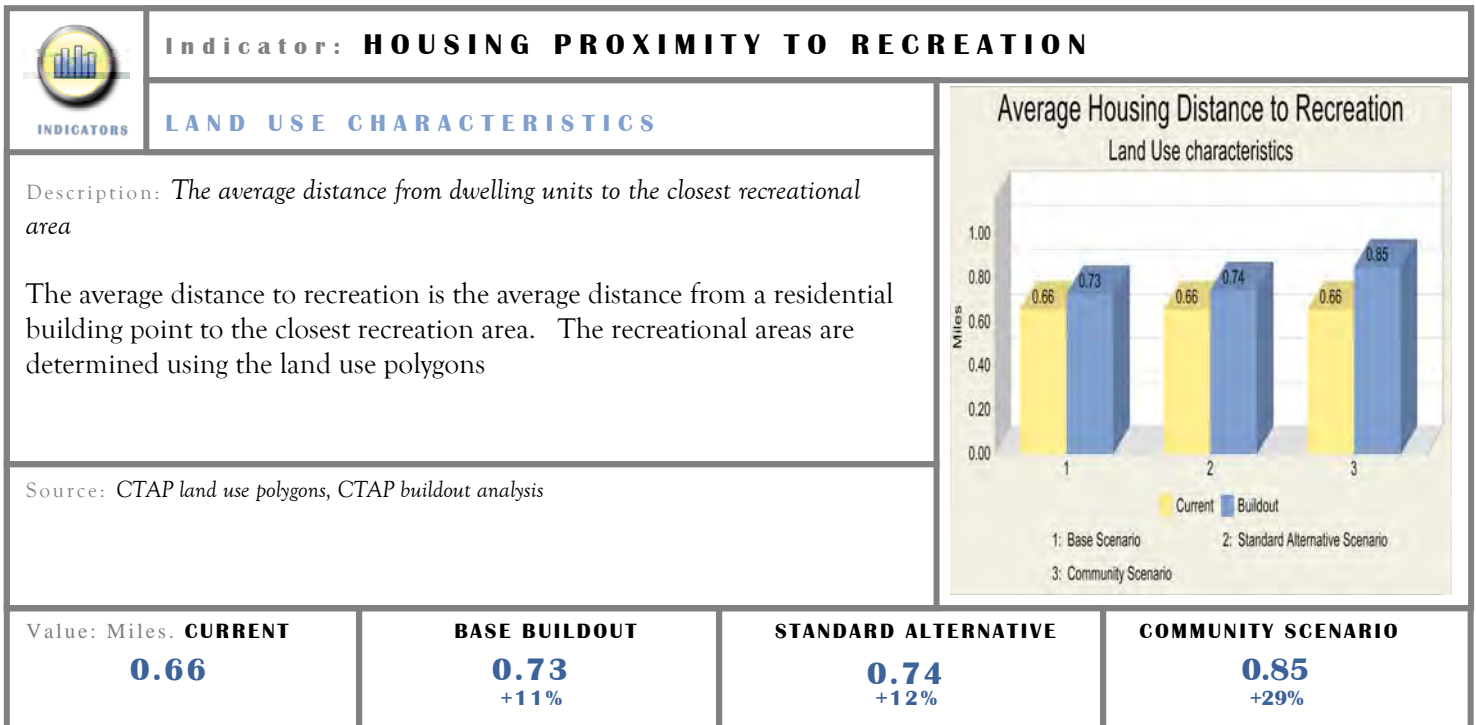
Indicators - LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS



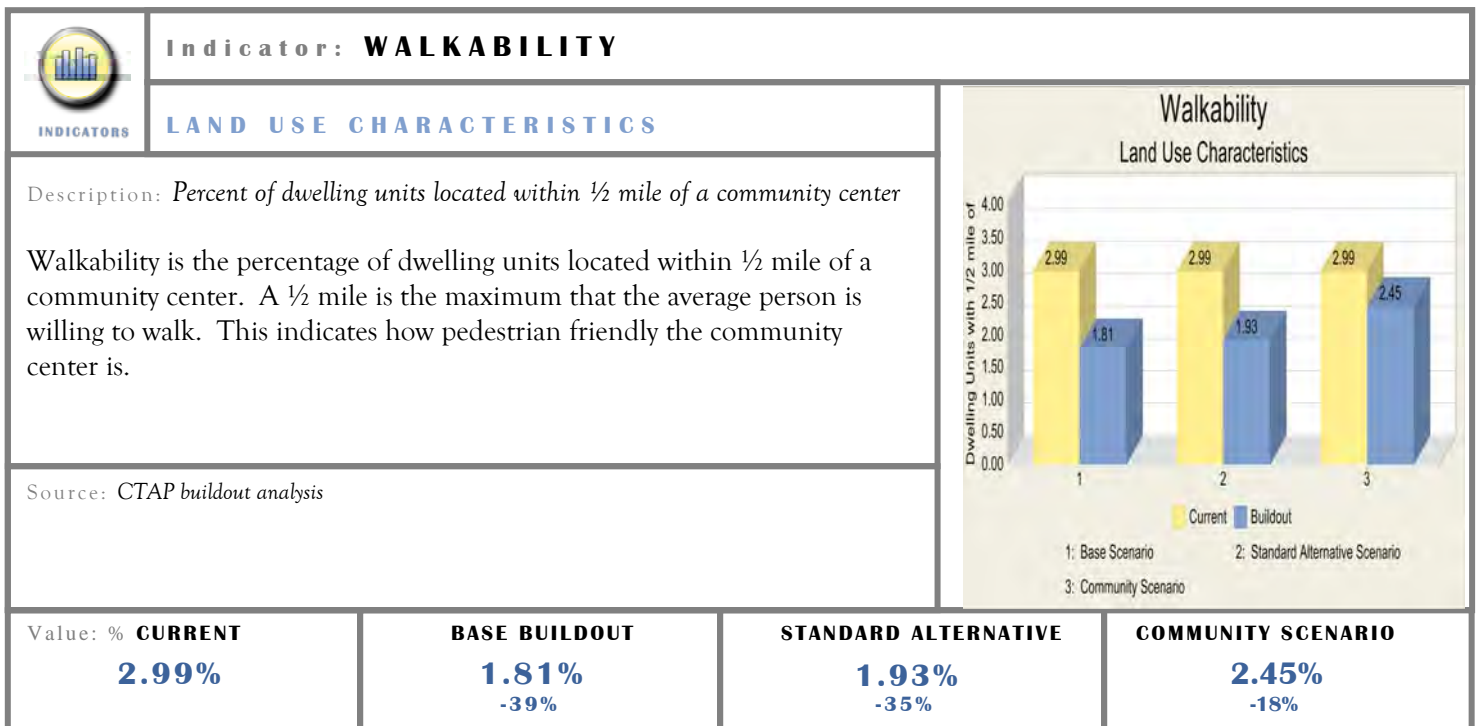
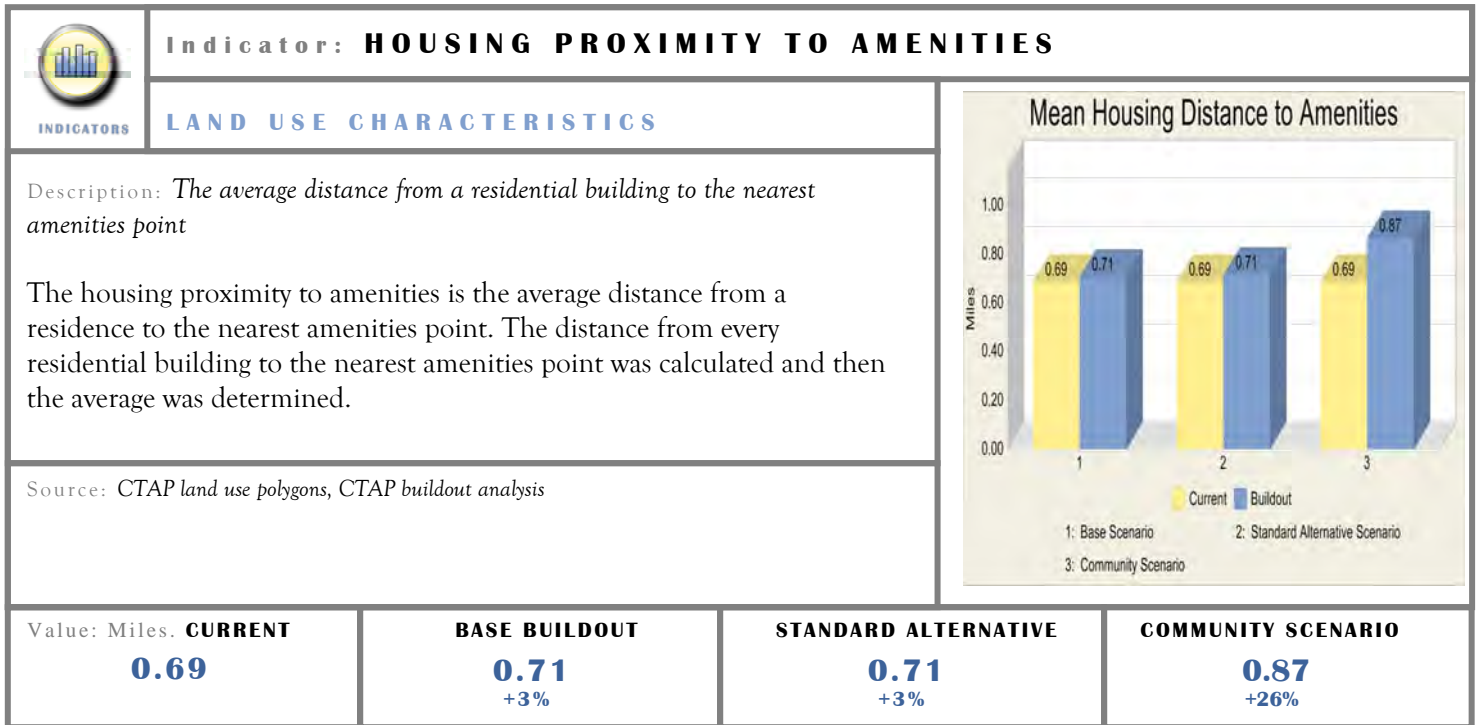
Indicators - LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS cont.




Indicators - LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS cont.




Indicators - LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS cont.

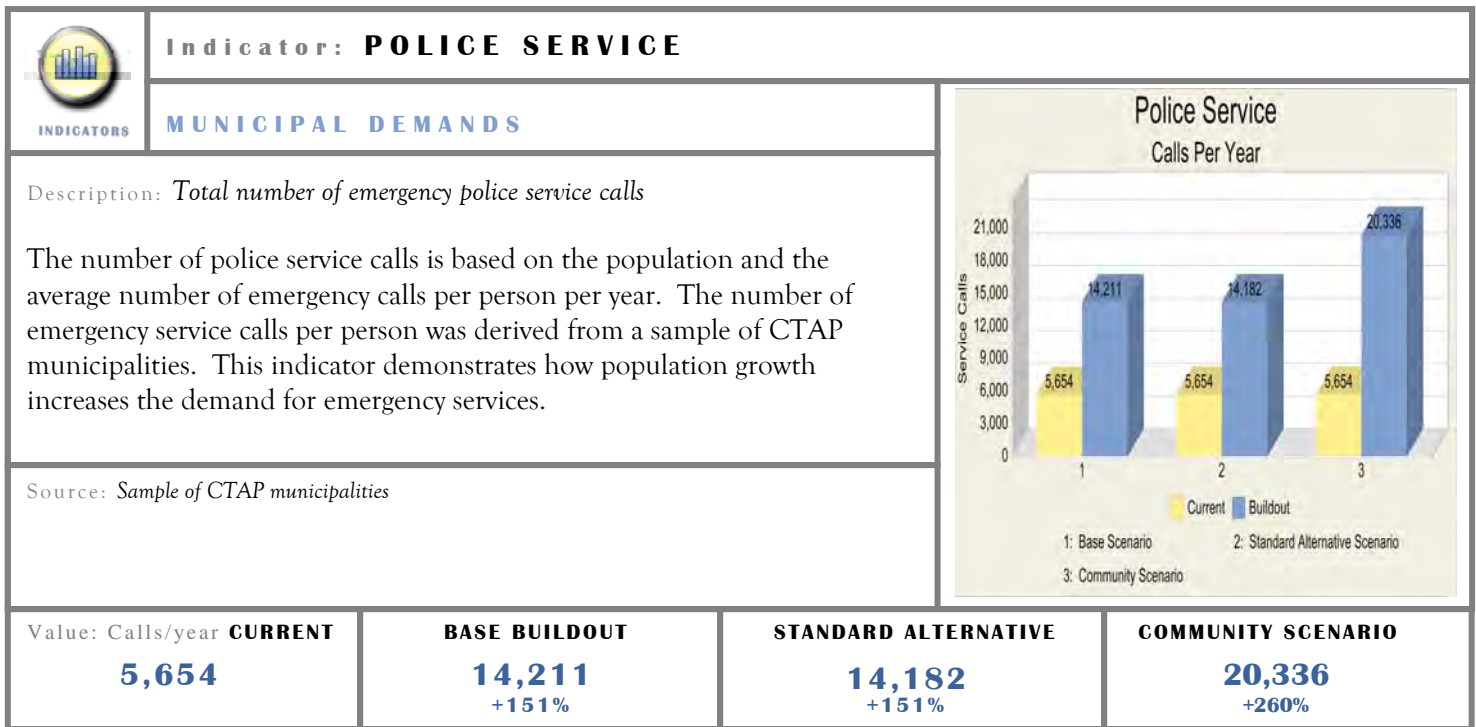
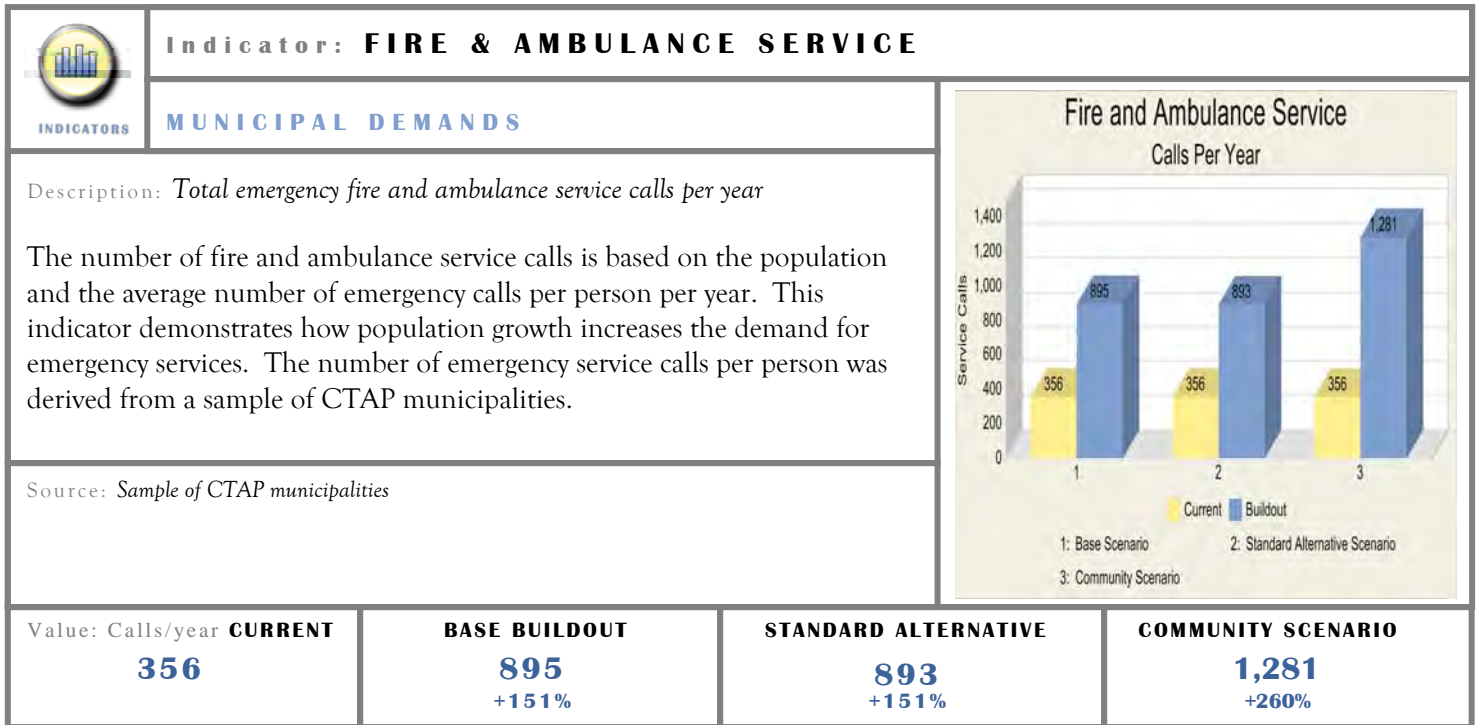


Indicators - LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS cont.


 INDICATORS	Indicator: HOUSING PROXIMITY TO TRANSIT			
LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS		Not Applicable		
Description: The average distance from a residential building to the nearest transit stop. The housing proximity to transit is the average distance from a residence to the nearest transit stop.				
Source: CTAP land use polygons, CTAP buildout analysis				
Value: Miles. CURRENT XXX	BASE BUILDOUT XXX +xx%	STANDARD ALTERNATIVE XXX +xx%	COMMUNITY SCENARIO XXX +xx%	

 INDICATORS	Indicator: EMPLOYMENT PROXIMITY TO TRANSIT			
LAND USE CHARACTERISTICS		Not Applicable		
Description: Average distance from each job to the nearest transit stop. The employment proximity to transit is the average distance from each commercial job to the nearest transit stop in miles. Because this indicator is based on jobs and not employer or building, large places of business, with more employees will have a greater effect than small businesses with fewer employees.				
Source: CTAP buildout analysis				
Value: miles CURRENT XXX	BASE BUILDOUT XXX +xx%	STANDARD ALTERNATIVE XXX +xx%	COMMUNITY SCENARIO XXX +xx%	

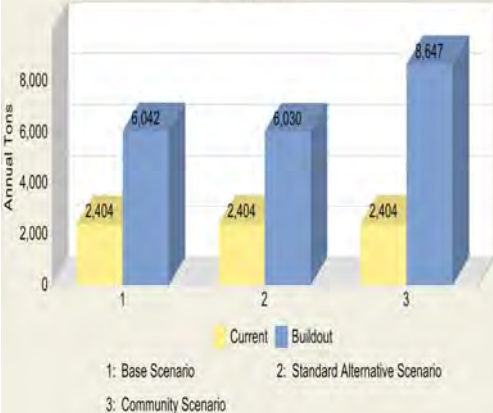
Indicators - MUNICIPAL DEMANDS



Indicators - MUNICIPAL DEMANDS cont.

 INDICATORS	Indicator: SOLID WASTE DEMAND			
MUNICIPAL DEMANDS				
<p>Description: <i>Total amount of solid waste produced</i></p> <p>The solid waste demand represents the total amount of solid waste produced by the town’s population in a year. In 2005 the EPA stated that the average person in the US produces 54 tons of solid waste per year. This number is combined with the total population to determine the yearly solid waste demand for the municipality</p> <p>Source: <i>US average from the EPA, 2005</i></p>				
Value: annual tons CURRENT 2,404		BASE BUILDOUT 6,042 +151%	STANDARD ALTERNATIVE 6,030 +151%	COMMUNITY SCENARIO 8,647 +260%

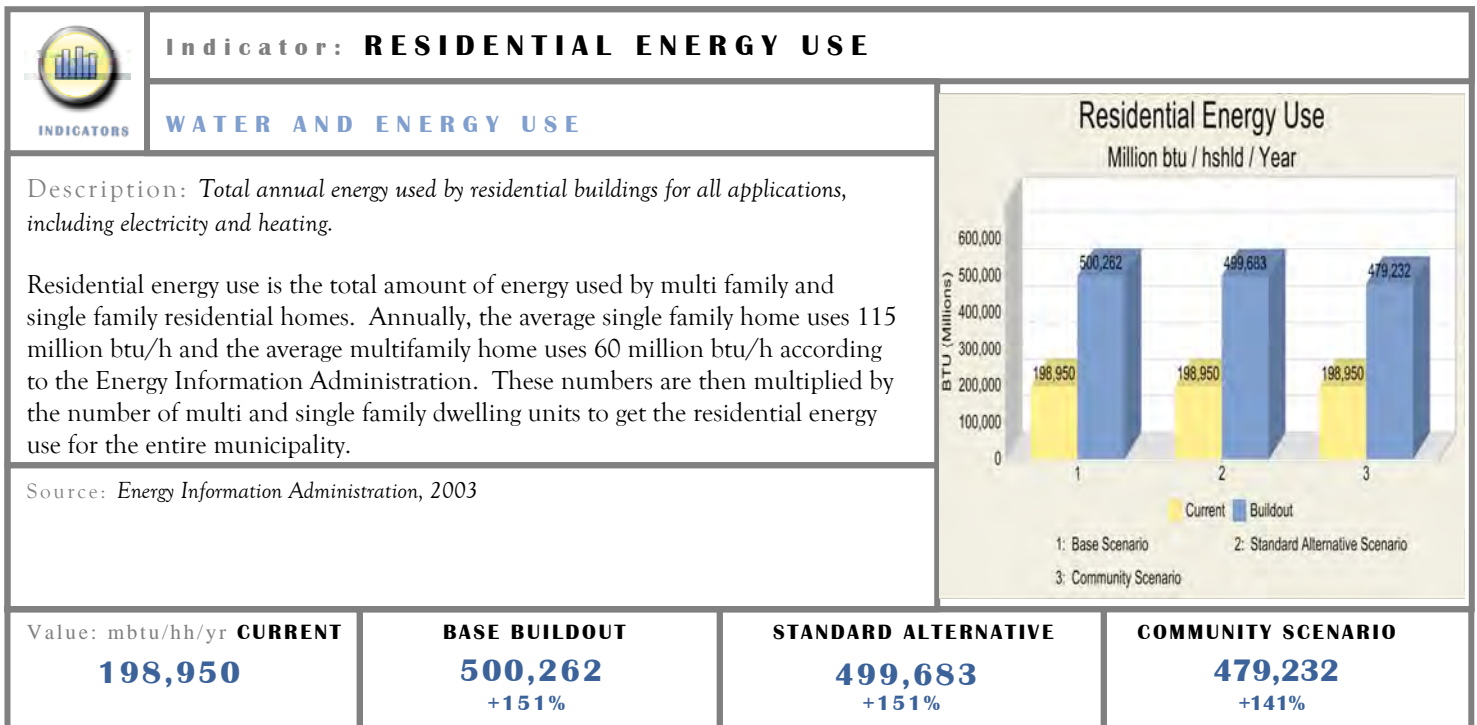
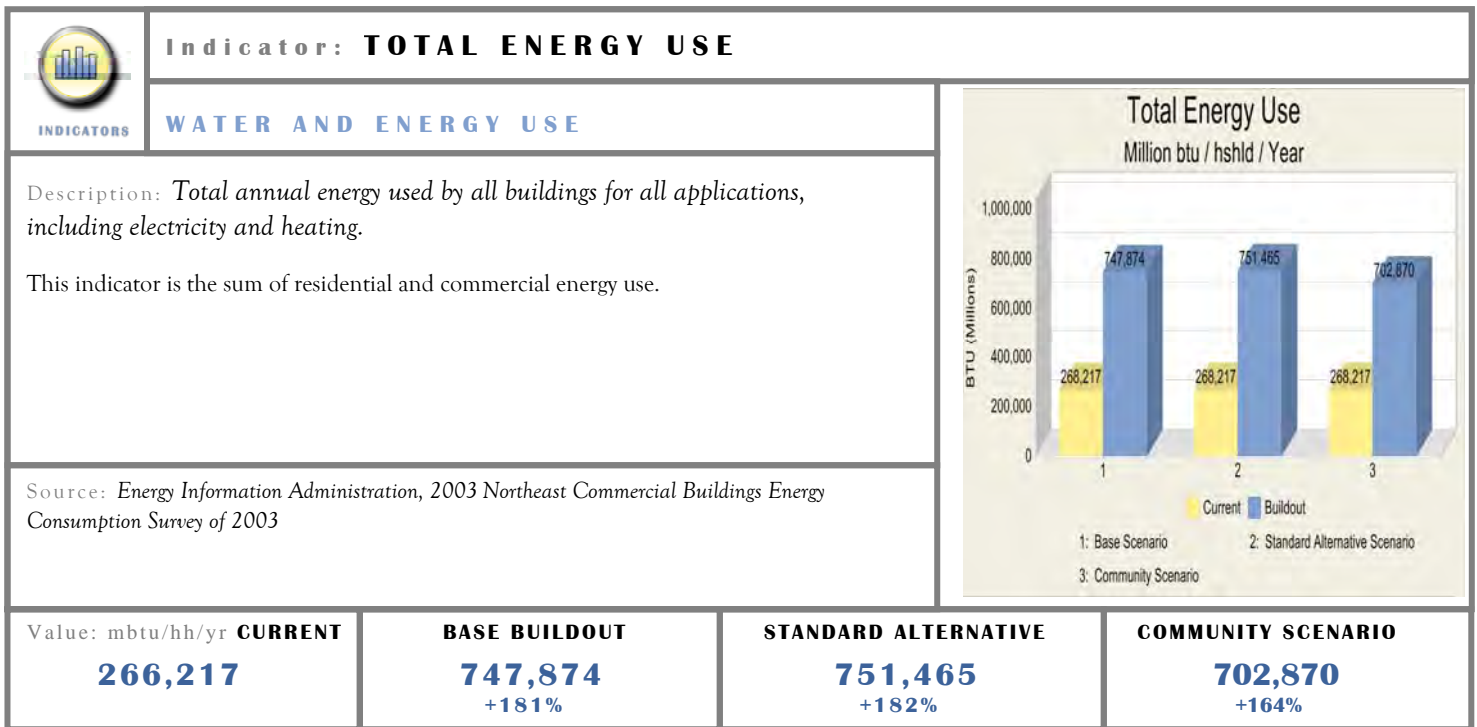
Solid Waste Demand
Annual Tons



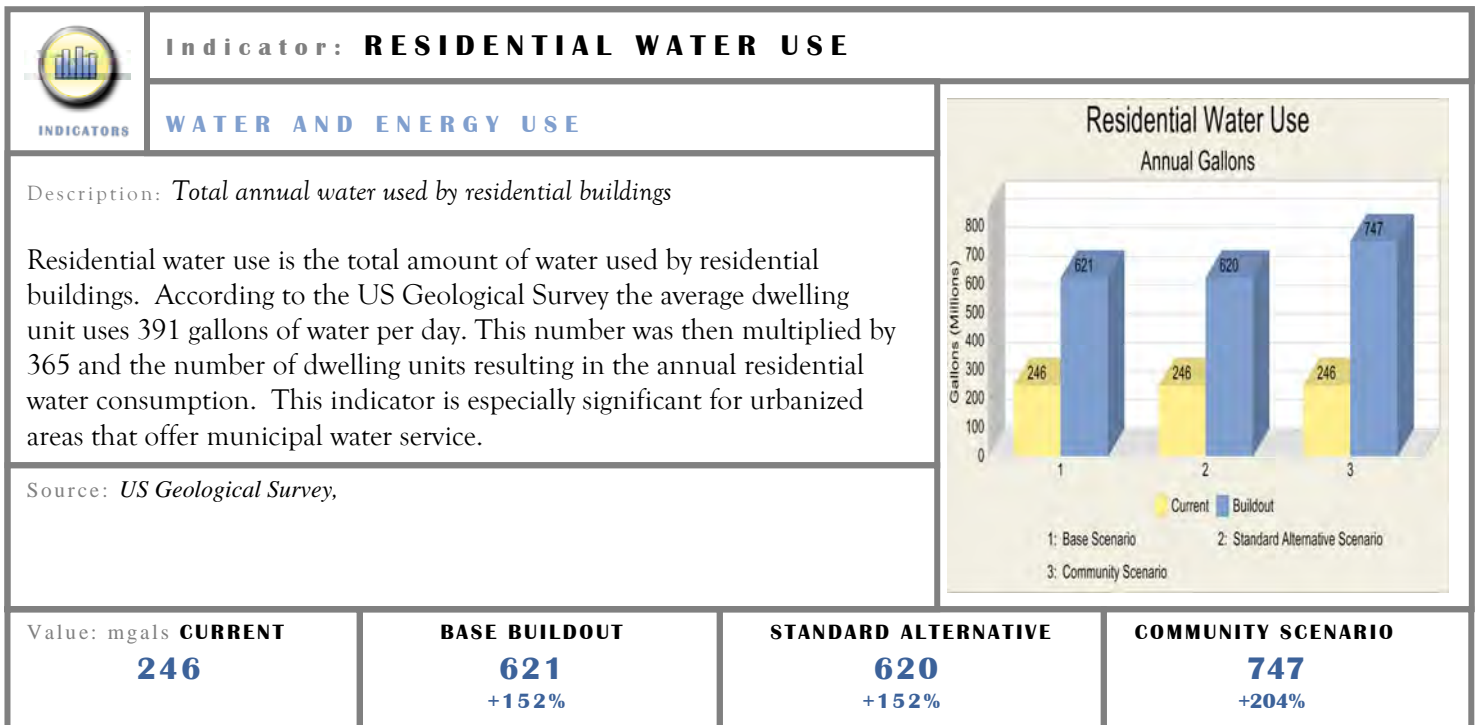
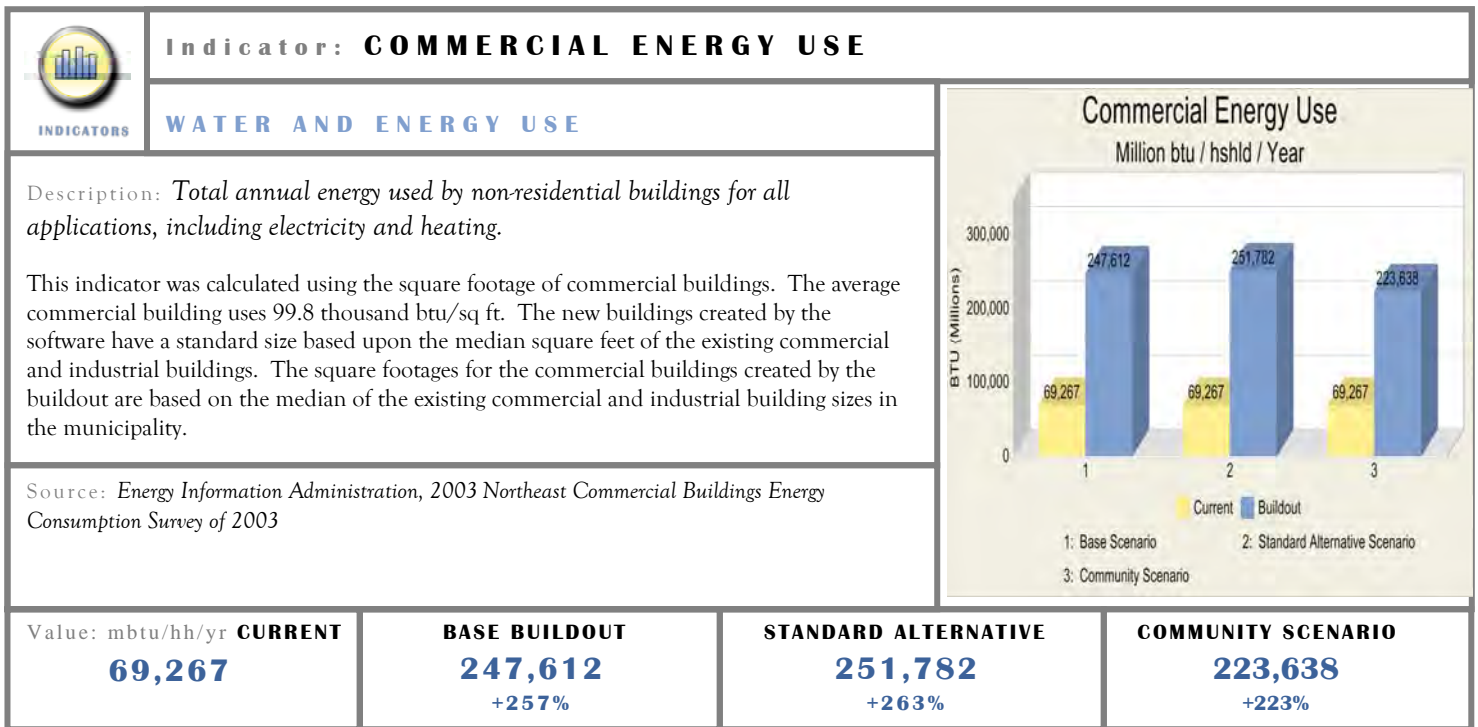
Scenario	Current	Buildout
1: Base Scenario	2,404	6,042
2: Standard Alternative Scenario	2,404	6,030
3: Community Scenario	2,404	8,647



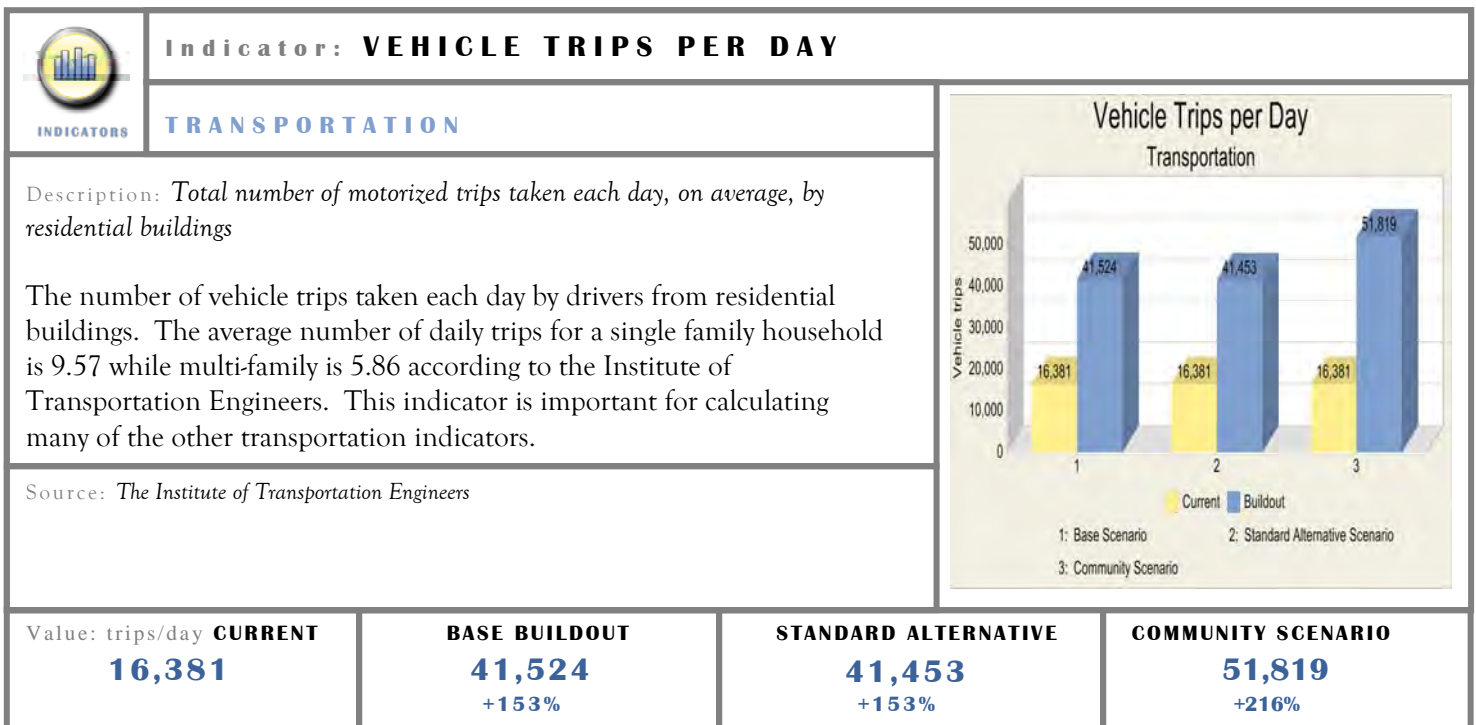
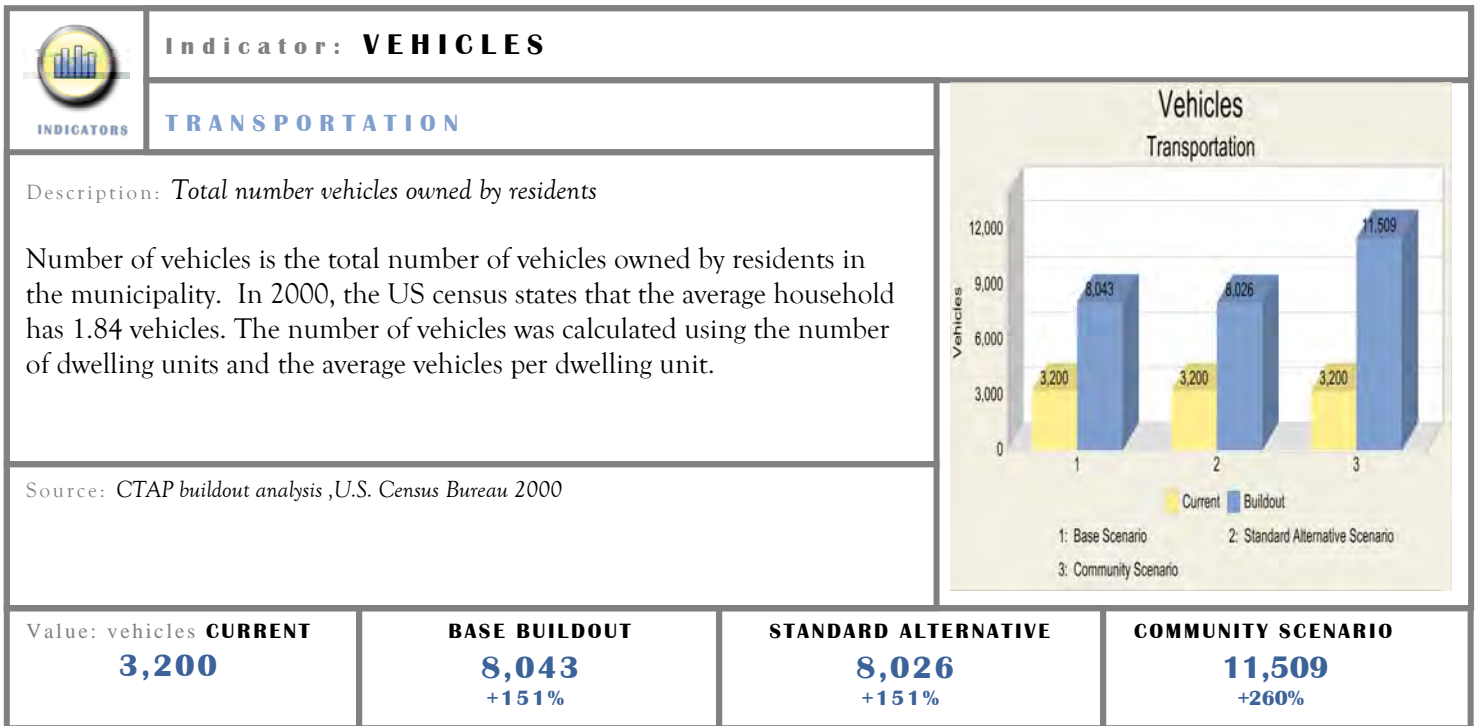
Indicators - WATER AND ENERGY USE



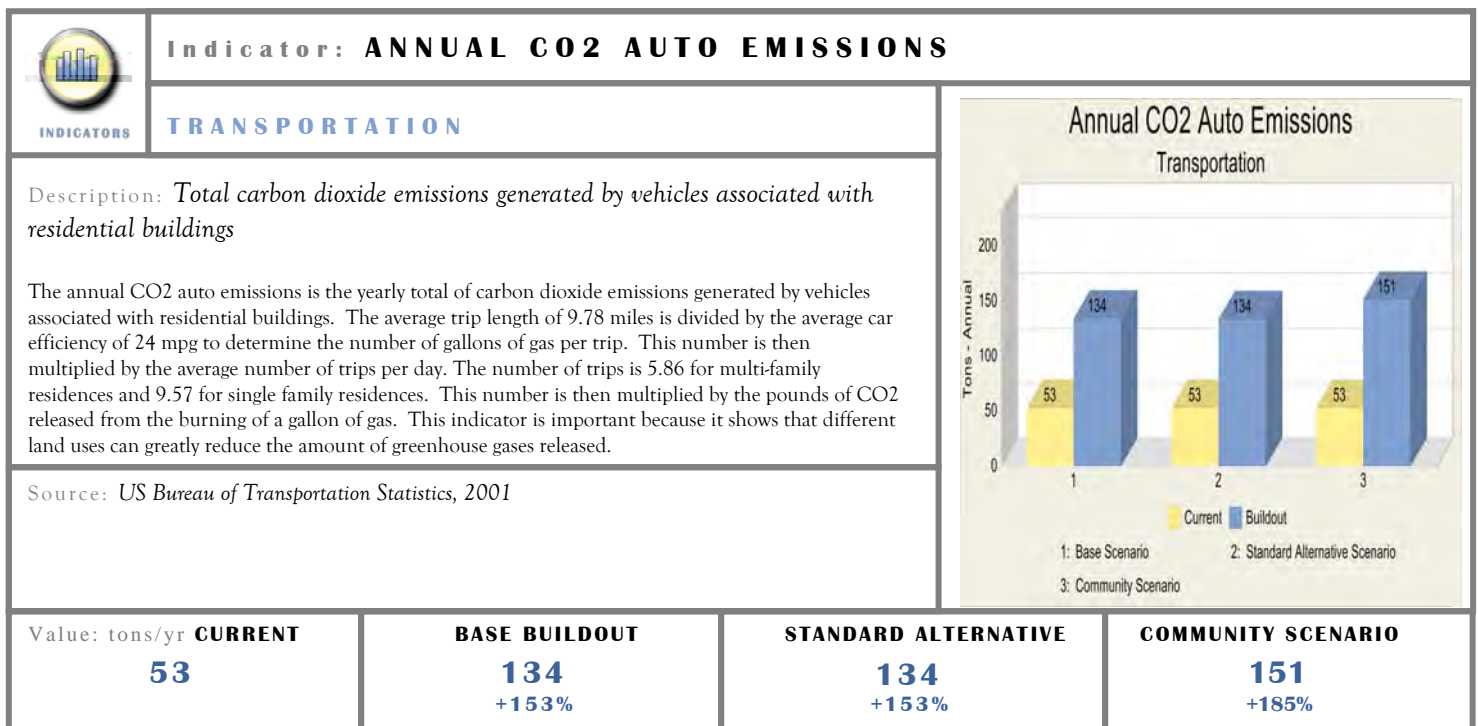
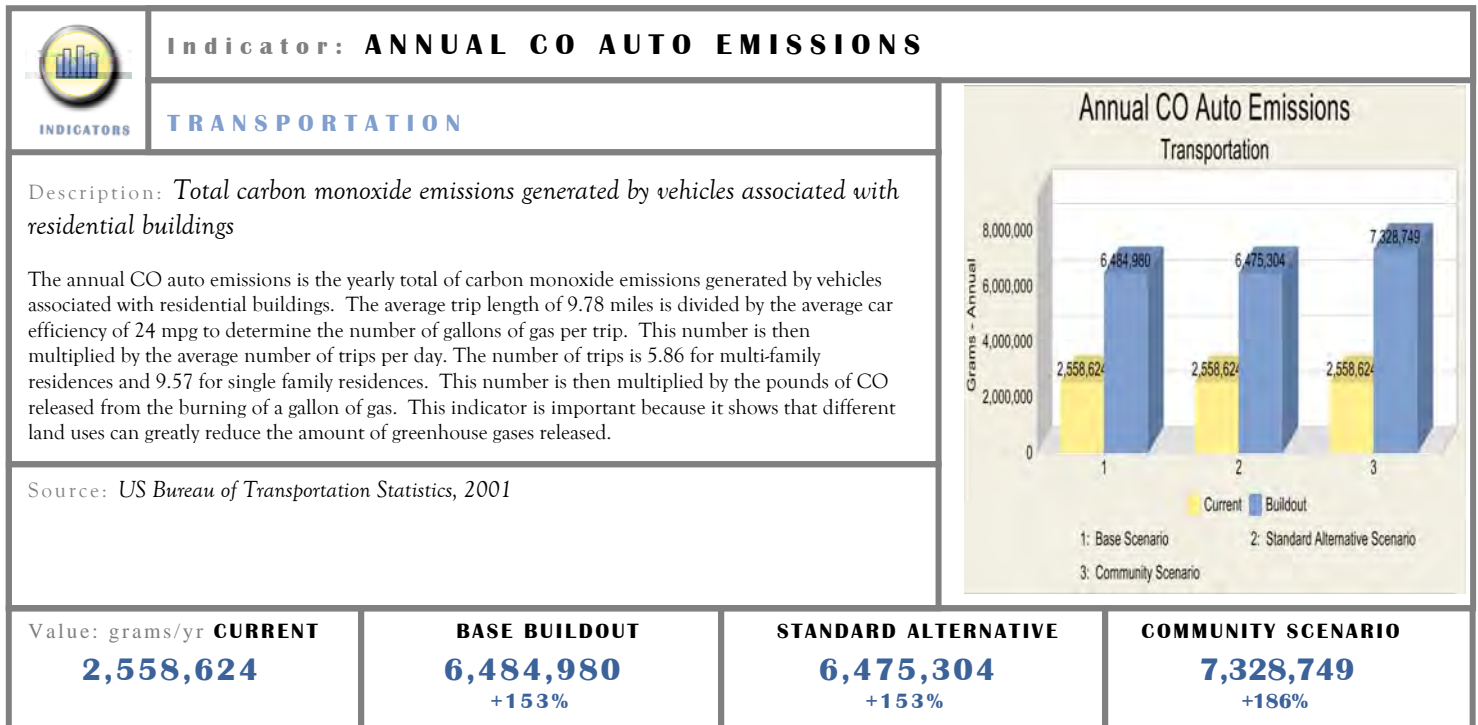
Indicators - WATER AND ENERGY USE cont.



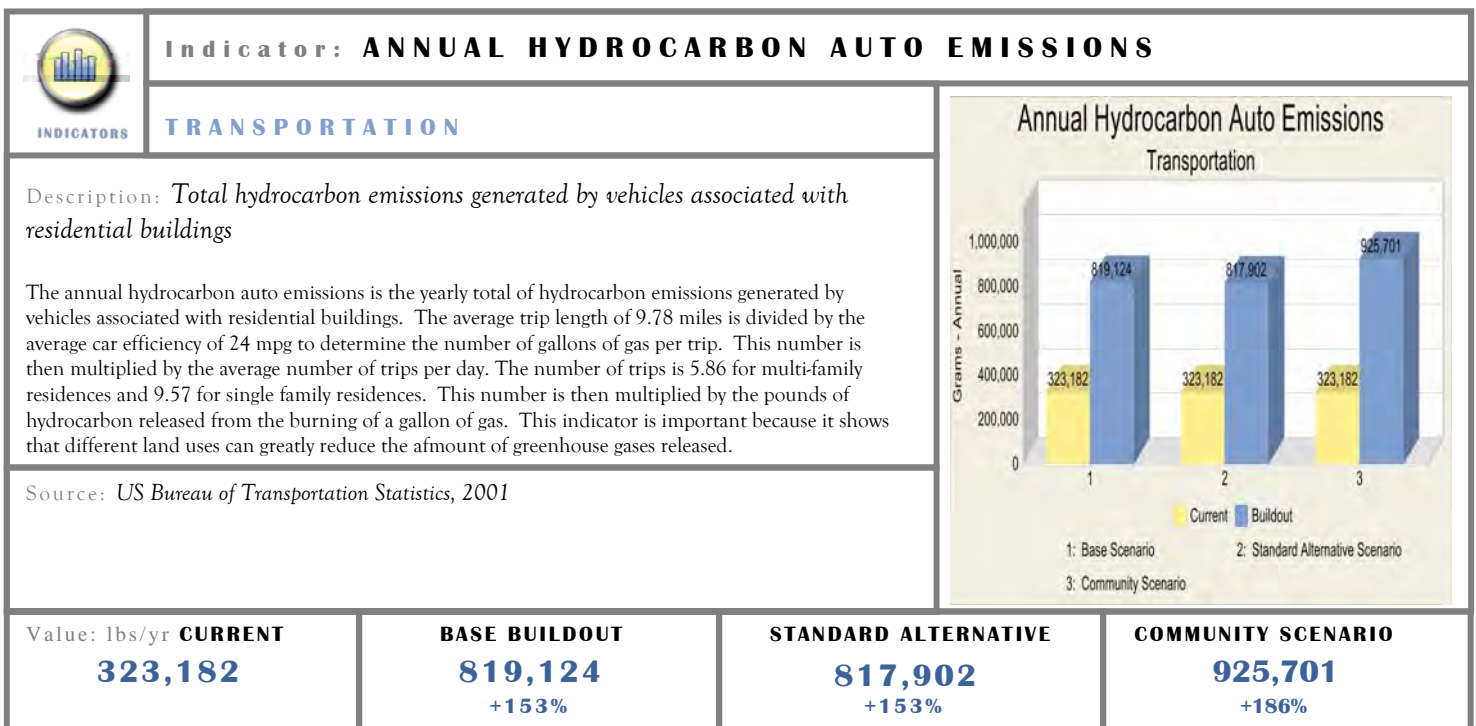
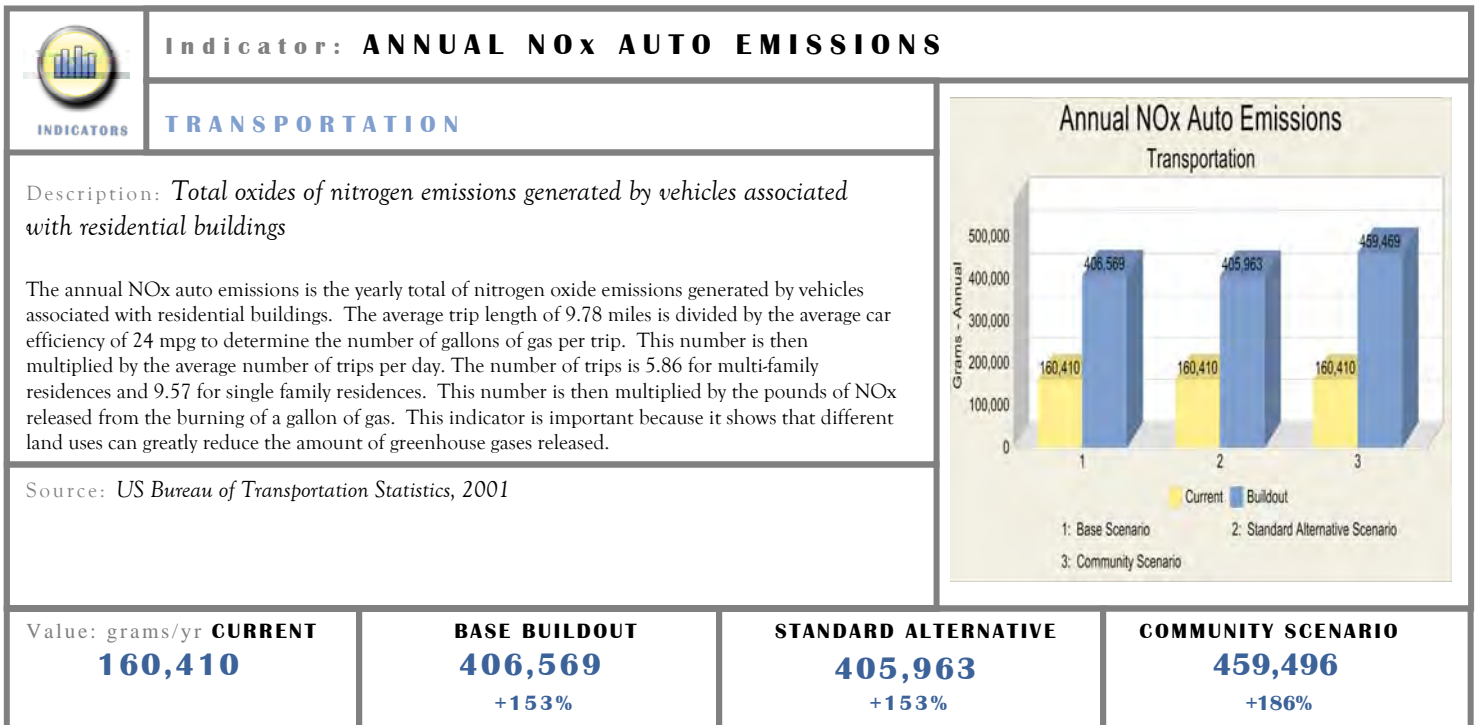
Indicators - TRANSPORTATION



Indicators - TRANSPORTATION cont.



Indicators - TRANSPORTATION cont.



A p p e n d i c e s

- A. Buildout Reports - Base & Standard Alternative & Community Scenarios
- B. Additional Maps
- C. CTAP Buildout FAQ