



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVE

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT Kent County | February 2022

The purpose of the Community Engagement Report is to share the activities, projects and accomplishments of UD Faculty, staff and students that are impacting the state with community leaders, stakeholders and citizens of the three counties.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Remembering the Storm of '62 and Preparing for the Next One

At 7:00 PM on March 3, join weather and emergency management experts for a 90-minute virtual workshop combining the history of severe weather in our state, future outlooks for storms and disasters, and information about ways to prepare. The evening will have two presentations and a moderated discussion on emergency preparedness tips, with opportunities for question and answer. The workshop will open with a look back at the 1962 Ash Wednesday storm that destroyed 1,932 houses along Delaware's coast. Dr. Dan Leathers, from the University of Delaware's Center for Environmental Monitoring and Analysis and state climatologist, will discuss the meteorological setup and impacts of the Storm of '62 and place it in the context of more recent events like Superstorm Sandy, the Blizzard of 2016 (Snowstorm Jonas), tornadoes, and flooding from Hurricane Ida. Following questions about the history, Delaware Sea Grant Coastal Hazards Specialist Danielle Swallow will present on demographic and land use changes in the area since 1962 that could affect storm impacts in the future, along with how to build resilience to extreme weather. The workshop will close with a panel discussion on emergency preparedness moderated by a Delaware Emergency Management Agency official.

To register, visit:
<https://www.deseagrant.org>

The Storm of '62 rages on along
the Delaware coast, credit:
Norman and Rossiter



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

PHC Works to Help Improve the Health of the Local Community Through Collaborative Effort

UD's Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC) has a longstanding partnership with Delaware's Division of Public Health (DPH) in which they collaborate on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). As a part of this ongoing work, DPH, PHC, the Epidemiology Program in the College of Health Sciences, and Healthy Communities Delaware (HCD) are teaming up to conduct a series of community conversations and community assessments to better understand concerns and needs of Delaware communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The "Community Assessments for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER)" will be conducted across all three counties starting with Kent County on February 25th and 26th, 2022. Local community members and students will collaborate to conduct the assessments, and information gathered will be used to help improve the overall health in Delaware. This joint project marks the first ever CASPER to be completed in Delaware! In addition to the CASPER, HCD, a strategic initiative of PHC, is currently working with the National Council on Agricultural Life & Labor Research Fund (NCALL) on a needs assessment and action plans to improve social determinants of health with three Housing Authority communities in Dover. HCD is seeking additional place-based community partnerships in Kent County through April 30, 2022. For more information, please check out the [DHSS press release](#) and [WBOC news coverage](#).

To learn more about Delaware's State Health Improvement Plan, visit www.DelawareSHIP.org

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Kent/Sussex Watersheds Valued at Millions of Dollars

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) awarded Delaware Sea Grant and a coalition of partners, called Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network (WIIN), a \$110,042 grant to develop an economic valuation and management plan for natural resources in the Mispillion and Cedar Creek watersheds in Kent and Sussex Counties. In addition to the NFWF grant, the project has also received matching funding or in-kind support from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the town of Slaughter Beach, the city of Milford, Sussex and Kent Counties and Delaware Sea Grant for a total of \$220,090 committed to the project. A major project partner is the Resilient and Sustainable Communities League (RASCL)—a network of organizations and state agencies working to improve the capacity of Delaware’s communities to thrive in the face of changing environmental conditions. RASCL members represented on WIIN are the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Delaware Sea Grant, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, Delaware Nature Society, and the DNREC. The project study assessed both the economic value of the region’s natural resources to local communities and the watersheds’ vulnerability to hazards such as sea level rise. Ultimately, the findings will inform a nature-based investment strategy that will promote economic opportunity and community resilience in the town of Slaughter Beach and the city of Milford. For more information, read this [Delaware Sea Grant article](#) and the [Pew Charitable Trust report](#).

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Works to Improve the Overall Health of Kent County Youths

Kent County, and Dover specifically, have worse health-related indicators compared to Delaware. Individuals representing many organizations were brought together by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension to improve Dover youths’ health around food access, mental health, and education. The food access subcommittee identified two census tracts in Dover with insufficient food resources. A virtual cook-along event was held to engage Dover youth and hear their perspectives around healthy eating. This event is the first of a series to engage youth in activities while taking part in discussions about their community. The information gathered will be used to revise the subcommittees’ action plans.

The series will continue with several upcoming Dover youth events, monthly on Mondays from 6–7:30 pm.

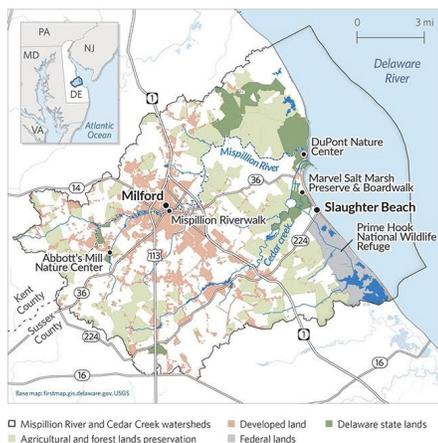
The specific details for each event are:

March 21 - Sports Day- Youth can join us to participate in various competitive games and sporting activities at the Dover Boys and Girls Club.

April 25 - Cook-Along & Yoga- Youth can join us to cook a yummy recipe and participate in a yoga session at the Dover Boys and Girls Club.

May 23 - Scavenger Hunt- Youth can join us to participate in fun challenges that test their mind and skill at the Dover Boys and Girls Club.

Delaware's Mispillion River and Cedar Creek Watersheds Vital for Wildlife, Local Economy
Internationally recognized flyway—one of world's most productive horseshoe crab spawning areas—faces challenges



A map displaying the location and impact of Delaware's Mispillion River and Cedar Creek Watershed.
Credit: Pew Charitable Trust