

WATERSHEDS

The Mispillion and Cedar Creek Watersheds play a critical role for Bay communities



Watersheds overview

A watershed is all of the land that water moves across or under while flowing to a specific body of water. The size of a watershed is sometimes referred to as a drainage basin or catchment.

And while some watersheds are relatively small, others encompass thousands of square miles and may contain streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and underlying groundwater that are hundreds of miles inland.

The Mispillion River and Cedar Creek watersheds are part of the larger Delaware Bay. These watersheds straddle southeastern Kent County and northeastern Sussex County, and cover 128 square miles of land with all its waters draining eastward into the Delaware Bay.

Intact watersheds provide a variety of benefits essential to our social, environmental and economic well-being.

WATERSHED FACTS:

- Healthy watersheds support floodplain management and **reduce flood losses**. They also provide ample opportunity for fishing, hunting, boating, and wildlife viewing.
- The Mispillion River watershed drains approximately **76 square miles**.
- The Kent - Sussex County line is defined by the Mispillion River, which runs for a total of **20 miles**.
- The Cedar Creek watershed drains approximately **52 square miles**.
- Wetlands make up approximately **one-quarter of the land** in the Cedar Creek watershed.



The Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network (WIIN) is a coalition of partners and stakeholders that was awarded grant funding by the National Coastal Resilience Fund (through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to create a natural resource evaluation and management plan for the Mispillion and Cedar Creek watersheds.

To learn more, visit us at: derascl.org/wiin.

May 2021 | Photo Credit: Tony Pratt
Sources: Univ. of Delaware, DNREC, EPA