

The Stockley Center and You

Since the 1920s, the Stockley Center has enriched Sussex County and the State of Delaware with services and housing to people who have disabilities. At the height of activity in the 1970s, the Stockley Center was home to over 700 residents of all ages. With 750-acres, the facility located south of Georgetown is one of the largest parcels of state-owned land and is currently home to just under a hundred residents living in its medical facility and its cottages. Over the past two years, a local initiative encouraged by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services has sought to expand the use of the Stockley Center to benefit the health and wellness of all Delawareans, particularly the residents of Sussex County.

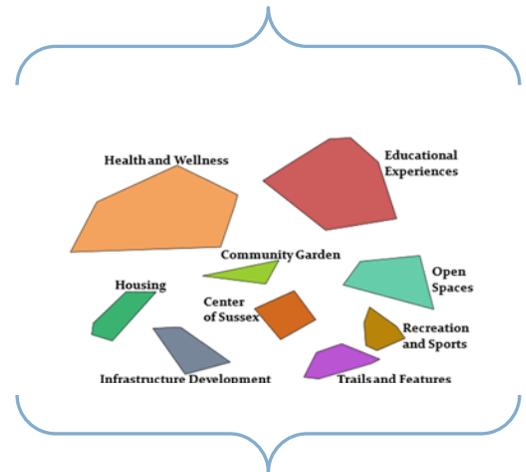
A Community Gem



The Stockley Center has state of the art facilities for Delawareans who have disabilities. Additionally, there are beautiful undeveloped areas of the property, including 307 acres of nature preserve. While underutilized areas of the property require some repair, the facility's rich history of service to state residents with developmental disabilities serves as encouragement that Stockley could become an inclusive center for the health and wellness of all residents. Secretary Rita Landgraf of the Department of Health and Human Service has asked, "What can we do to enable the public to have access and see this gem?"

A Call to Action

In 2011 State level agencies, advocacy groups, and community programs began considering a broader vision for Stockley's future. They sought the opinions of hundreds of stakeholders in the community in regards to priorities for enhancement of the property, utilizing group concept mapping. The resulting map of possibilities showed 9 areas of potential use. In 2013, a Task Force of nearly 50 individuals sought to focus the stakeholder recommendations into implementable strategies with the greatest potential value. The Task Force utilized the map to envision four key areas for potential development:



- Medical, Health and Wellness
- Housing and Infrastructure
- Learning and Education
- Recreation and Community

The Stockley Collaborative

During 2014-2015, community members serving on the Stockley Collaborative will focus on implementing priorities that will benefit the community, as well as continuing to support and protect residents with disabilities. These priorities include:

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Improving and using the facilities at the Stockley Center to increase the availability of medical services for people with specific needs. This will include specialty care for all Delawareans, especially those in need in the Sussex Community.

Possible services may include:

Rehabilitative care, dentistry, behavior health, care for cochlear implants, telemedicine initiatives, in addition to ongoing care for people who have disabilities.

Improving and using the Nature Preserve area by developing a trail system that will be accessible to persons of all abilities and interests. This will encourage healthy walking and other outdoor activities for all Delawareans. Linking community and botanical gardens to the trail will add enjoyment and learning.

Additionally, further property development could encourage community based sports and recreational activities that would be open to community members, with specific consideration to those who have disabilities.



Linking Sussex County's medical and health needs to the assets at Stockley, developing a training center to support training and professional development for medical and allied care practitioners. This approach will support integration with other medical care, and bring a "whole health" opportunity into the center of Sussex.

Creating a model of mixed-use development (affordable housing associated with stores, restaurants, medical/dental and recreational services) to provide new housing opportunities for Stockley residents, as well as optimizing the use of State lands and adjacent lands for the benefit of Sussex County residents.

How can Stockley's revitalization help you and your family?

Imagine a place right in the middle of Sussex County, where trails, gardens, and sports and learning programs are easy to get to and enjoy. Imagine a "one stop" health and wellness support center with doctors and classes to help you and your family get healthy and stay well. Imagine getting the help you need for your special health condition, without having to travel. When the Stockley vision starts to take shape, these benefits and more will be yours.

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The Stockley Collaborative is working now to start making this vision a reality.