

Regional Information Centers	
Purpose	Serve as key regional outlets for information about the Network and for orienting people to the particular region in which they are located, all Gateways within the region, and how to access the Gateways.
Defining Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several in each region below the fall line; none in upper watershed at this time • generally located in smaller communities that serve as primary centers of visitor services for a portion of one of the Bay's geographic regions • often located where different modes of transportation (road/water) come together at the Bay or along its tidal tributaries • consists of a self-contained ADA accessible facility with restrooms; generally open 7 days a week, year round, with some variation permissible where there is significant seasonal variation in visitation • provides visitors a representative variety of brochures and information on Gateways and other resources, events, and accommodations in the region and presents an opportunity for interpreting Bay-related themes of the region • operated and staffed on a non-profit basis by a unit of government, chamber of commerce, or designated local/regional tourism organization • located in a convenient and accessible point for travelers, with appropriate signage for finding the facility and adequate adjacent parking • capable of facilitating convenient physical connections to a range of existing or potential Gateway sites and other Bay-related resources in the region • in locations where there is a local willingness to serve as a key orientation point for the Network
Achieving Network Goals	<p>Interpretation: Visitors find Network-wide interpretive materials providing an overview of overarching and principal themes. The overview is intended to stimulate interest in visiting other Gateways and orient visitors to their options. Some, but not all, information centers might include materials, exhibits, activities and/or programs focusing on the principal Bay themes within the particular region.</p> <p>Orientation & Access: Centers' core function is to provide orientation and key information to facilitate access to other Gateways in the vicinity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maps and guides related to sites, connecting routes and themes within the region • maps of the entire Network • on-line opportunities to explore the Network electronically, identify sites connected with themes and plan trips <p>Centers link people to regional land routes (roads and trails) and water routes (paddling trails and larger boat connections) connecting sites in the region.</p> <p>Restoration & Conservation: Visitors find information on opportunities to volunteer in restoration projects at sites and along water trails in the vicinity. Information centers help promote and interpret stewardship of the Bay and local watershed resources.</p>

