

Chesapeake Bay Gateway Hubs	
Purpose	Key facilities in a limited number of high visitation locations for introducing people to Bay-wide interpretive themes and orienting people to the Network and where to experience its places and stories.
Defining Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one, or in some cases two hubs, per Bay region below the fall line; none in the upper watershed at this time • located in major entry point to the Bay within a particular region, where a combination of geography, location, transportation systems and services concentrate significant numbers of people at the Bay • in communities with a combination of interpretive facilities, authentic Bay resources—natural, cultural, historic or recreational—and public access to the Bay • sited in an ADA accessible facility providing visitor contact, interpretation, information and orientation services, 7 days a week, 8 hours a day, year around, closing only on major holidays; generally providing services to 100,000 or more visitors annually, given regional variations • situated in a convenient and accessible location, capable of facilitating connections to other Gateways in the Network • providing an outstanding opportunity for orienting visitors to the Network and interpreting Bay-wide (overarching) themes • must be a local willingness to serve as a primary orientation point for the Network
Achieving Network Goals	<p>Interpretation: Visitors discover interpretive materials, exhibits, activities or programs introducing the Network's overarching and principal themes. In addition to providing an overview of Bay-wide interpretive themes, hub facilities should also be in immediate proximity to other potential Gateways and Bay-related resources that allow a deeper exploration of several principle and sub-themes. Some hubs also include interpretive materials or exhibits that are more regionally focused, addressing the manifestations of principal Bay themes within the particular region.</p> <p>Access & Orientation: Hubs provide all key orientation information to facilitate access to the Network including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maps of the entire Network • on-line opportunities to explore the Network electronically, identify sites connected with themes and plan trips • maps and guides related to sites, connecting routes and themes Bay-wide <p>Hubs also link people to Gateway sites via a Bay-wide tour route, boat access for water touring and other connections.</p> <p>Restoration & Conservation: Hubs interpret Bay restoration and conservation as part of key over-arching and principal interpretive themes, promote individual stewardship of the Bay and local watershed resources, and provide information on opportunities to volunteer in restoration projects at sites and along water trails.</p>

