



## Memorandum of Understanding

Between  
[Your Organization](#)  
&  
The National Park Service

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is an internationally recognized resource of outstanding significance and the United States has entered into a partnership with states, the District of Columbia and others to conserve and restore the Bay through the Chesapeake Bay Program;

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, as a Chesapeake Bay Program partner, is committed to assisting in enhancing interpretation of, and access to, Bay resources for the purposes of advancing and supporting Bay conservation;

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-312, Sections 501-2) calls for: (a) the National Park Service to facilitate development of a network of Chesapeake Bay gateways, water trails and other connecting routes in cooperation with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, non-profit organizations and the private sector; and (b) a technical and financial assistance program to aid development of the Gateways network;

WHEREAS, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the multi-agency/organization Working Group established by the Chesapeake Bay Program, outlines in a *Framework* and other supporting materials how the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network will develop and how important Bay-related resource sites may participate as designated Chesapeake Bay Gateways;

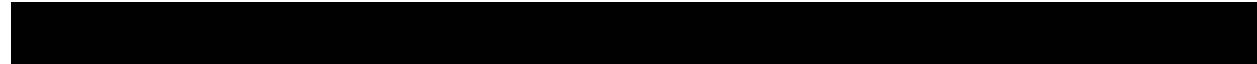
WHEREAS, [\[Your Gateway\]](#), located on [\[location\]](#), provides access for people to experience, enjoy, learn about and contribute to Bay-related natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources and their role in the overall Bay story;

WHEREAS, [\[Your Gateway\]](#) has been nominated as a Gateway site and the nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Gateways Network Working Group;

NOW, THEREFORE, [\[Your Gateway\]](#) is formally designated as a Gateway Site participating in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and benefiting from the mutual commitments identified below:

[Your Organization] commits to sustaining [Your Gateway] as a Gateway site in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and agrees to advance the purposes of the Gateways Network by adhering to the following commitments and principles:

1. Helping advance the goals of the Gateways Network: (a) enhancing place-based interpretation and education about the Bay and its related resources to increase public awareness and promote individual stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay region; (b) facilitating access to the Bay and related resources; and (c) fostering conservation and restoration of the Bay.
2. Working to interpret the resources and stories associated with [Your Gateway] through programs, exhibits and materials which relate those resources to the Chesapeake Bay and relevant Gateways Network overarching, primary and sub-themes.
3. Operating [Your Gateway] to provide appropriate public access for Bay-related natural, cultural, historical, recreational resources at the site, in accordance with sound resource management considerations and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The site shall be open to the public for the maximum number of days per week feasible, given seasonal visitation patterns and operational limitations, but must be publicly accessible at least four days per week, including at least one weekend day, during your high visitation season.
4. Displaying and maintaining the Gateways Network logo and signage in a prominent location at the site entry or primary visitor facilities.
5. Where appropriate, working to include the Gateways Network logo or graphics in brochures, maps, guides, interpretive exhibits or signage.
6. Providing descriptive information on the site's resources and themes for inclusion within the Gateways Network web site and establishing a link to the Gateways Network home page from the [Your Gateway] 's web site.
7. Participating in physical or programmatic linkages with other existing or potential sites and routes in the Gateways Network that are geographically or thematically related.
8. Assisting in the marketing of other Gateways and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network to visitors to [Your Gateway] so as to assist their further explorations of Chesapeake Bay resources and stories. This will include distributing the Gateways Network Map and Guide and orienting visitors to the use of the Map and Guide, the availability of the Gateways web site, and opportunities to explore their interests at other Gateways.
9. Promoting and interpreting conservation stewardship of Bay-related natural and cultural resources.

- 
10. Encouraging low-impact use of natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources associated with the site.
  11. Working to manage the site in ways that improve watershed health through practices such as green building design & construction, environmentally sensitive design (ESD), low impact development (LID), and/or conservation landscaping to the maximum extent practicable.
  12. Identifying and working to develop opportunities for involving volunteers in on-going resource restoration or conservation activities in order to build broader involvement in Bay conservation overall.

The National Park Service, in partnership with the Network Working Group, agrees to foster development of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network and [Your Gateway]'s participation in it by adhering to the following principles and commitments:

1. Expanding and maintaining the Gateways Network web site as a major tool for promoting the Network and all participating Gateways and including [Your Gateway] in the web site.
2. Developing and maintaining a Gateways Network technical assistance tool kit available to designated Gateways on the Network web site.
3. Including [Your Gateway] in Network maps and guides as they are developed.
4. Supplying a Gateways Network sign for [Your Gateway] and providing access to Network logos and related graphic materials.
5. Facilitating linkages with other potential or existing Network locations, including hubs and regional information centers which orient and direct visitors to Gateway sites.
6. Consulting with the [Your Organization] regarding needs or eligibility for technical or financial assistance to further development of the [Your Gateway] as a member of the Network.
7. Providing regular updates via the Gateways web site, email or other means on development of the Network, and related issues and opportunities.
8. Including [Your Gateway] staff in round-tables, and other forums for communicating about development of the Gateways Network.

[REDACTED]

This Memorandum of Understanding and the commitments of the parties hereunder are subject to the availability of funding. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as binding the parties to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of appropriations or administratively allocated for the purpose of this agreement for the fiscal year, or to involve the parties in any contract or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or allocations. In addition, nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as obligating the National Park Service to provide funding, compensation or reimbursement pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding.

The National Park Service and [Your Organization] make this Memorandum of Understanding, and the designation of [Your Gateway] as a Gateway Site, effective upon the date of the last signature below. The parties also agree to review this Memorandum on a triennial basis.

***For [Your Organization]:***

---

[Your Organization CEO]

---

Date

***For the National Park Service:***

---

John Maounis, Director  
Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network

---

Date