

<b>Gateway Sites</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	The primary places to which people are directed to access, experience, enjoy, learn about and contribute to a particular Bay-related natural, cultural, historical or recreational resource and its role in the overall Bay story.
<b>Defining Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• many in each region below the fall line; additional sites in the upper watershed</li> <li>• are publicly accessible parks, refuges, museums, historic sites or districts, resource-based recreation sites, historic seaports, natural areas and interpretive facilities related to Chesapeake Bay themes</li> <li>• are located in close proximity to the Bay, its tidal tributaries, or major tributaries in the upper watershed</li> <li>• provide an opportunity to experience and interpret particular Bay-related resources and themes; for upper watershed sites major Bay tributaries are key Bay-related resources</li> <li>• support linkages with other Gateways that are geographically or thematically related</li> <li>• emphasize low-impact use and foster stewardship of the site, the Bay and local watershed resources</li> <li>• provide an opportunity for developing volunteer projects that involve visitors in resource restoration or conservation activities</li> </ul>
<b>Achieving Network Goals</b>	<p><b>Interpretation:</b> At Gateway sites visitors encounter a particular Bay-related resource together with its specific stories and find information pertaining to the Bay themes to which it relates. They find:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interpretive materials, exhibits or programs telling the site's story and placing it in the context of overarching and principal Bay themes</li> <li>• maps and guides linking one site with others pertaining to the same or related themes</li> </ul> <p><b>Orientation &amp; Access:</b> Sites provide direct, physical public access to Bay-related resources, as well as the site maps and other user orientation materials to facilitate that use by visitors. At times, sites undertake projects to improve, enhance or expand existing public access to natural, cultural or recreational resources. Sites link with other sites that are thematically or geographically related via various connecting routes.</p> <p><b>Restoration &amp; Conservation:</b> Most sites have on-going conservation and restoration missions and programs and at times restore natural or cultural resources to increase or enhance public access to those resources.</p> <p>Importantly, sites develop and provide on-going opportunities for people to volunteer in restoration or conservation projects. These opportunities are linked to interpretation of relevant Bay themes.</p>

