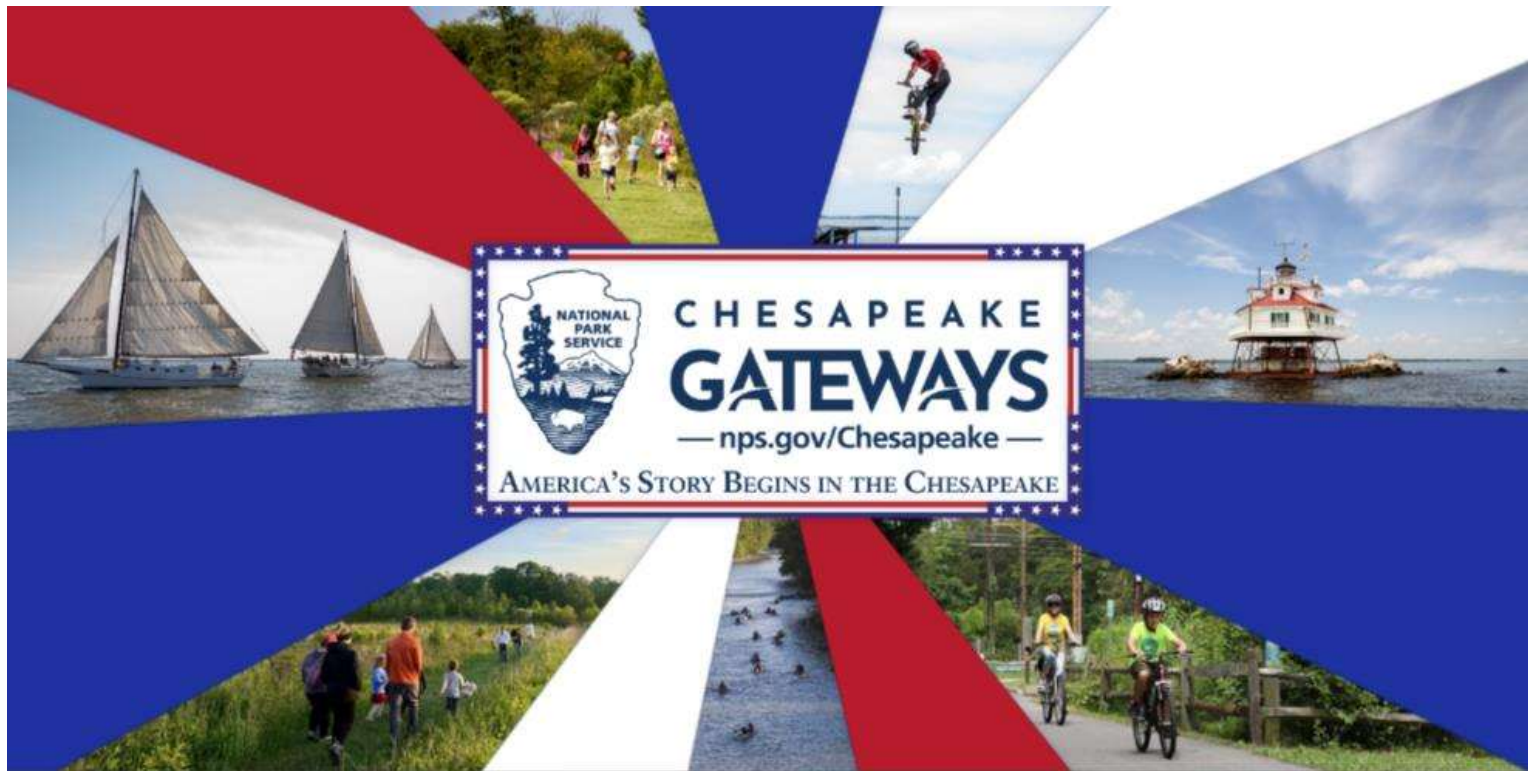


NPS Chesapeake Gateways 2026 UPDATES



Network Sites on the NPS App!!



and on nps.gov/Chesapeake





**Designations to
Join the Network!!**

**Self-Nomination Forms on
nps.gov/Chesapeake**

PLACES

EXPERIENCES

PROGRAMMATIC





Where will the Roving Ranger team be this summer...& slots open in Aug.



Maryland Sites:

- Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
- Captain Avery Museum
- Downtown Annapolis
- Hogshead Trades Museum
- Museum of Historic Annapolis
- Fair Hill Nature Center
- Mt. Pleasant Farmstead
- Havre de Grace
- Pinney Point Lighthouse
- Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
- Annapolis Maritime Museum and Park
- Rodgers Tavern

Pennsylvania Sites:

- Susquehanna National Heritage Area
- Gifford Pinchot State Park
- Big Elk Creek State Park
- Shikellamy State Park Marina
- Shikellamy State Park

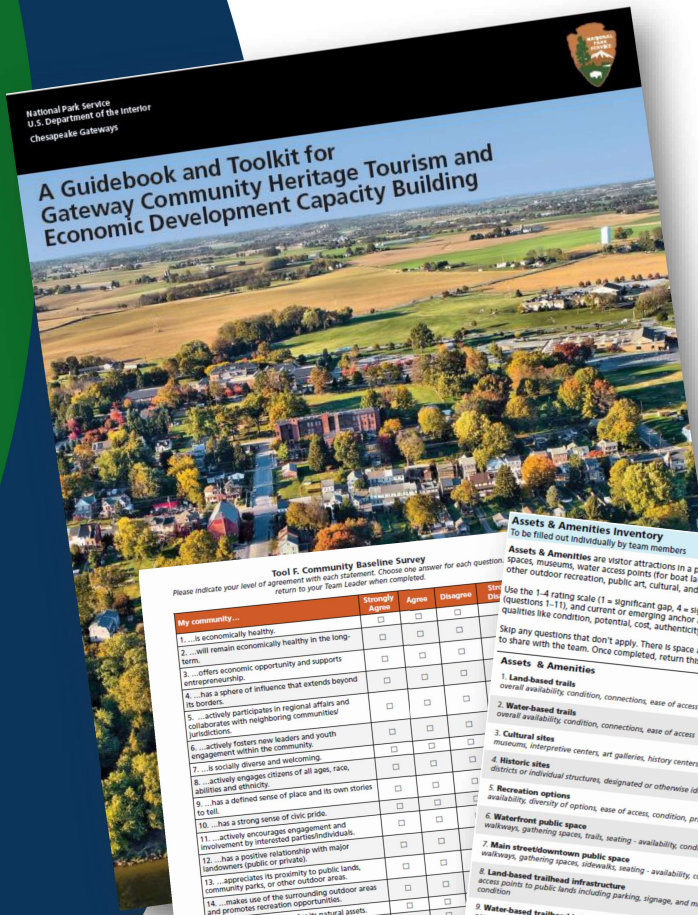
Virginia Sites:

- Downtown Tappahannock
- Deltaville Maritime Museum
- The Mariners' Museum and Park
- Southern Gateway Welcome Center



Gateway Communities!

As part of the Chesapeake Gateways Communities Initiative, we have released a new resource for communities divided into two parts: A **GUIDEBOOK** and **TOOLKIT** that gives detailed information about the community-led assessment and action planning process with template agendas and worksheets.



Tool F. Community Baseline Survey
Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement. Choose one answer for each question and return to your Team Leader when completed.

My community ...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. ...is economically healthy.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. ...will remain economically healthy in the long-term.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. ...offers economic opportunity and supports entrepreneurship.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. ...has a sphere of influence that extends beyond its borders.	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. ...actively participates in regional affairs and collaborates with neighboring communities/jurisdictions.	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. ...actively fosters new leaders and youth engagement within the community.	☐	☐	☐	☐
7. ...is socially diverse and welcoming.	☐	☐	☐	☐
8. ...actively engages citizens of all ages, race, abilities and ethnicity.	☐	☐	☐	☐
9. ...has a defined sense of place and its own stories to tell.	☐	☐	☐	☐
10. ...has a strong sense of civic pride.	☐	☐	☐	☐
11. ...actively encourages engagement and involvement by interested parties/individuals.	☐	☐	☐	☐
12. ...has a positive relationship with major landowners (public or private).	☐	☐	☐	☐
13. ...appreciates its proximity to public lands, community parks, or other outdoor areas.	☐	☐	☐	☐
14. ...makes use of the surrounding outdoor areas and promotes recreation opportunities.	☐	☐	☐	☐
15. ...has an appreciation for its natural assets.	☐	☐	☐	☐
16. ...is ecologically healthy.	☐	☐	☐	☐
17. ...has an appreciation for its arts and culture assets.	☐	☐	☐	☐
18. ...supports the integration of arts and culture into community life and events.	☐	☐	☐	☐
19. ...fosters active, healthy lifestyles.	☐	☐	☐	☐
20. ...is able to adapt and evolve.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Once completed, return this document to your Team Leader.

Assets & Amenities Inventory
To be filled out individually by team members

Assets & Amenities
Spaces, museums, water access points (for boat launching or viewing the Bay), trails, fishing piers, and other outdoor recreation, public art, cultural, and historical sites.

Use the 1-4 rating scale (1 = significant gap, 4 = significant strength), starting with overall asset categories (questions 1-11), and current or emerging anchor assets (questions 12-19), then rating community-wide qualities like condition, potential, cost, authenticity, and welcoming (questions 20-25).

Skip any questions that don't apply. There is space at the end of the inventory to record any notes you wish to share with the team. Once completed, return this document to your Team Leader.

Assets & Amenities	Score
1. Land-based trails overall availability, condition, connections, ease of access	
2. Water-based trails overall availability, condition, connections, ease of access	
3. Cultural sites museums, interpretive centers, art galleries, history centers, etc. - availability, condition, ease of access	
4. Historic sites districts or individual structures, designated or otherwise identified, presence in community	
5. Recreation options availability, diversity of options, ease of access, condition, price points	
6. Waterfront public space walkways, gathering spaces, trails, seating - availability, condition, ease of access	
7. Main street/downtown public space walkways, gathering spaces, sidewalks, seating - availability, condition, ease of access	
8. Land-based trailhead infrastructure access points to public lands including parking, signage, and maps; consider ease of access and condition	
9. Water-based trailhead infrastructure access points to public waters including parking, signage, ramps, docks, and maps; consider ease of access and condition	
10. Public art presence, condition, interpretation	
11. Aesthetic beauty	

List existing significant or anchor assets/amenities in your community below and rate it individually on the scale

12. Asset A (name and brief description)	
13. Asset B (name and brief description)	
14. Asset C (name and brief description)	
15. Asset D (name and brief description)	
16. Asset E (name and brief description)	



2026 Gateway Communities Workshops @ NCTC

LEADER ACADEMY

August 31

NPS-NCR Parks and their Gateway Communities



3-DAY WORKSHOP

September 1- 3, 2026

Four Community Teams

invited: Scranton, PA; Harrisburg, PA; Hopewell, VA; Harpers Ferry, WV; Seaford, DE





NPS Chesapeake Gateways **FUNDING** **Convening/Supporting CCP**

NPS STAFF SUPPORTING CCP

(Quarterly CCP Steering Committee Meetings and Communications)

- Aurelia Gracia - (Outdoor Recreation Planner) - 25%
- Wendy O'Sullivan - (Superintendent) - 10%
- Brent Everitt - (Assistant Superintendent) - 5%
- Other NPS Staff/Interns as Needed

CCP ANNUAL MEETING

(NPS Contract for Hotel and Speaker Honorarium Support - \$25K)

Two-day strategic meeting of the CCP Steering Committee and invited participants/speakers.

Location: Harrisburg-Lancaster-York, PA (RFP for Hotel contract closes 7/17)

Date: End of February – early March

CCP-PA Partners on Planning Team: Claire, Fritz, Mark



NPS Chesapeake Gateways **PROJECTS** **Advancing CHBA/CBP/CCP Priorities**

RURAL PUBLIC ACCESS IN PA

(Task Agreement w/ Trust for Public Lands - \$50K)

- TPL to complete the identification and assessment of rural public access sites in PA as model for remainder of watershed and to be used in the update of the Chesapeake Watershed Public Access Plan.

SERC - VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Interagency Agreement w/ Smithsonian Environmental Research Center - \$150K)

ADAPTIVE REUSE OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES EXPERTISE AND CONSULTATIONS

(CESU Agreement with Preservation Maryland - \$150K)

FOUR STRATEGIC COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

(NEW Solutions - \$200K)

- Four strategic projects listed on NEXT slide



NPS Chesapeake Gateways **EXPERIENCED WORKERS** Advancing CHBA/CBP/CCP Priorities

Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Strategic Support (NEW Solutions - \$50K)

- Experienced Worker to support the development and recommendations of innovative, landscape-scale conservation strategies and solutions that enhance connectivity, stewardship, and coordinated action across the watershed. **(Key Topics: Mitigation Fund, Other?)**

Military Readiness and Landscape Resilience Support (NEW Solutions - \$50K)

- Experienced Worker to support the identification and prioritization of public access, conservation and military readiness projects and parcels within SENTINEL LANDSCAPES. Roll over LWCF funding available.

Outdoor Recreation Economy Review (NEW Solutions - \$50K)

- Experienced Worker to review the data that indicates the six Chesapeake watershed states repeatedly rank at the bottom of the annual reporting on US Outdoor Recreation Economies by State. This project will identify data gaps and assess key sectors, conduct stakeholder engagement, present findings and recommendations to aim to improve state rankings and grow the Chesapeake's outdoor recreation economy.

Expanding Public Access and Site Accessibility (NEW Solutions - \$50K)

- Experienced Worker will focus on assessing select Chesapeake Gateways Network member sites, recommending improving accessibility, and enhancing public access, visitor experience, and environmental resilience.



FY26 Technical Assistance Projects – 17 applications; 13 selected

ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, FRIENDS OF THE GREENBELT EAST TRAIL

Prince George's Trails Dashboard

Kate, Experience Worker

ANNAPOLIS MARITIME MUSEUM & PARK

Shared Shorelines: Adapting to Sea Level Rise on the Chesapeake

Brent, Experienced Worker

CATONSVILLE RAILS TO TRAILS INC.

Catonsville to Baltimore Greenway

CHESAPEAKE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Friends in Nature

Aurelia, Experience worker

FAIR HILL ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

Fair Hill Nature Center Guest Experience

Kierstin, Kate, Experienced Worker

FRIENDS OF FORT MCHENRY

Facilitation of Interior Text Panel for the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center at Ft. McHenry

Joel, London, Kate

HAMPTON HISTORY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Journey's of Liberty

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION

Historic St. Mary's City 2034 Strategic Plan

Brent

MASONVILLE COVE PARTNERSHIP

Masonville Cove Accessibility Assessment

Aurelia, Experience Worker

MASONVILLE COVE PARTNERSHIP

Masonville Cove Passive Activity Stations

Brent, Experienced Worker

POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

*Understanding Bicycle Usage Patterns in Southern MD
NHA and PHNST*

PRIDE OF BALTIMORE, INC.

The Chesapeake Privateer Story

Brent (to later transfer), Experienced Worker

RICHARDSON MARITIME MUSEUM

Collections Access and Research Project

**Aurelia and Kate, Regional NPS Collections
Colleagues**

SANDY SPRING MUSEUM

Sandy Spring Museum Cultural Landscape Plan

Brent, Experienced Worker

SULTANA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Radcliffe Creek Paddling and Nature Center

Kate, Preservation Maryland

VISIT ANNAPOLIS & ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Planning for Annapolis Maritime Welcome Center

Brent, Wendy, Kierstin

WATERMARK

*Watermark National Anthem Cruise Narrative
Update; Kate*



**CHESAPEAKE
GATEWAYS**

NPS Chesapeake Gateways 2027 GRANTS

Exploring and Enhancing Outdoor and Heritage Tourism in the
Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- Chesapeake Gateways - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), is currently with DOI-PMB, the last step in the review and approval process to open a grant application cycle.



CHESAPEAKE
GATEWAYS

Investing in Place: Recreation, Heritage, Opportunity



Feb/March 2027

**Call for Session Proposals
Open Through July 20!**

