

# Graphic Study of Sailing Center Locations

For more information see [www.wjhamilton.com/fairwinds/](http://www.wjhamilton.com/fairwinds/)



This Dock seaward of Alhambra Hall ends approximately 150 to 200 feet from water at low tide. It's 200 feet long and starts 100 feet further out than the dry land at Alhambra. Below, a view from the same location back towards Alhambra. It's clear a very long and expensive access dock would need to be constructed to reach the water at this location. This location does have classroom/meeting space.



This pier at Waterfront Memorial Park was constructed by the State Highway Department for the Town of Mt. Pleasant at a total cost of over three million dollars. It reaches water that is over 8 feet deep at low tide. Original plans for the park included a sailing dock here 130 feet long and a budget line item for its construction of 30 Thousand dollars.

Cost to build a sailing center at this location would be lower than Alhambra hall and the resulting center would have more public visibility and be located next to the primary pedestrian, bicycle and transit corridors connecting Mt. Pleasant to Charleston. Sheltered sailable waters are found both above and below the bridge and the Remley's point boat landing is nearby.

Interests connected with the State Ports authority object to this location, however the US Army Corps of Engineers permitted the dock with public boating access provided for this location after careful study. Sailing experts have said a program with motorized safety boats can be operated at this location.

The town has resisted building public classroom meeting space at this park, but a corporate retreat center has been proposed instead.



## Important issues to consider:

Without access to our public waters, many people have already found sailing to be prohibitively difficult and expensive, reducing the attractiveness of Mt. Pleasant to young people and families interested in enjoying life on the water. As the price of waterfront property, yacht club membership and marina slips continues to be bid upward by national economic pressures, the number of people sailing may continue to decline until the local support infrastructure of sailing service businesses, organizations and non profit donor base is no longer supportable. Many communities have very successful community sailing programs: Boston, Clearwater, Baltimore, Arizona and Colorado among them where ordinary people find affordable sailing. See a list of links to their websites on our website above.

Recreational sailing can be operated around commercial shipping traffic by monitoring marine radios and minimizing time in the narrow shipping channels the containerships are restricted to. Motorized chase boats are available to assist boaters in distress in properly run programs. The College of Charleston has run such a program for nine years just South of the bridge.

Discussions about community sailing in Mt. Pleasant have already been going on for four years, with little progress. Three plans have already been abandoned to provide community sailing here. Serious study and a commitment to a functional plan is needed.

Twenty-five years ago Mt. Pleasant had about four miles of publicly owned waterfront from the end of Patriot's Point to the mouth of Molasses Creek. Responsible public stewardship by our elected leaders should have preserved some of it for public water access for sailing. In many communities public access to the waterfront was preserved when public property was sold for development.

Your voice and opinions matter. Write a letter to the Moultrie News. Record your thoughts with ION Radio. Get on our Fair Winds mailing list. Stand up. Be heard. Make sure there are sails on our harbor a generation from now, not just containerships.