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Swan Island sits a couple hundred yards away from a Richmond town sign welcoming people to “where history and nature meet.” Except there is a disconnect now. Lack of public access to the island cuts visitors and townspeople off from our history, our sense of place, including denying or limiting access to local elementary, high school, and college students. And it shuts the door to what could be an easy and salubrious visit to a nature sanctuary.

It’s just out of reach, a couple hundred yards away but out of reach.

Restoring public access would help make a trip down Main Street a gateway to greater experience and appreciation of both history and nature.

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