Saunders-Monticello Trail Suffers Damage from Isabel

The upper portion of the Saunders-Monticello Trail in the Thomas Jefferson Parkway has been closed indefinitely in the wake of Hurricane Isabel.

More than a dozen trees knocked down by Isabel’s strong winds and heavy rain the night of Sept. 18-19 destroyed sections of the boardwalk carrying the trail along the slope of Carter’s Mountain.

The Saunders-Monticello Trail is closed between Carter’s Mountain Road, which is 1.25 miles from the trail’s base in Kemper Park, and Saunders Bridge, which leads onto the grounds of Monticello. The lower portion of the trail and Kemper Park remain open to the public.

The Thomas Jefferson Parkway is a linear park along Route 53 that serves as a scenic entrance to Monticello and an educational and recreational resource for visitors and local residents. Begun in 1996 and partially opened in 2000, the parkway and its main components – Kemper Park, Saunders Bridge, and the Saunders-Monticello Trail – were officially dedicated in November 2002.

Comments? newsletter@monticello.org