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NEWS RELEASE

Arlington Wetlands Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Tour – Walk Across the Longest Floating Boardwalk in Southwestern Illinois

August 27, 2013 – Join Heartlands Conservancy and Madison County Chairman Alan Dunstan at the Arlington Wetlands Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, September 19 at 10:00 AM. The ceremony will include brief remarks from project partners; Heartlands Conservancy, Collinsville Area Recreation District, Madison County, and Illinois EPA, concluding with a tour of the restored site and walk across the longest floating boardwalk in Southwestern Illinois! Construction of the restoration activities was completed by Hayes Contracting & Excavation of Collinsville, Illinois.

Arlington Wetlands is located at 84 Arlington Drive, Pontoon Beach, IL. The main water body of the interpretive site is an 83-acre remnant oxbow of the Mississippi River. The wetland serves an important role in providing stormwater storage, clean water, and wildlife habitat for surrounding communities.

In partnership with Team REIL Inc. and Hutchinson Recreation & Design, a trail and boardwalk across the open water allows visitors to discover the true beauty of the wetland up close. Additionally, a permeable parking lot constructed with pavers from Midwest Products Group allows rainfall to move through, rather than flow off, the surface of the lot. This increases filtration of storm water, removing pollutants that would otherwise be washed directly into our lakes and streams.

Funding for this interpretive experience was provided in part by the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act distributed through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Phillips 66, Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Victoria Foundation, and The Confluence.

If you would like to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, RSVP by September 17 to Sarah Vogt at 618-566-4451 ext. 23 or via email at sarah.vogt@heartlandsconservancy.org.

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Heartlands Conservancy, serving Southwestern Illinois since 1989, works to balance the inevitable growth of the region with the responsibility to protect our open spaces and natural resources for generations to come. Efforts are focused on conserving land, building greener communities, and engaging individuals and communities in our natural resources.

For more information regarding Heartlands Conservancy or to become a member visit www.HeartlandsConservancy.org or contact:

Heartlands Conservancy

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For Immediate Release

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