



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Native Trees and Plantings Part of Rt. 53 Berm Enhancements

As part of a restoration project required by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Army Corps of Engineers, Heidelberg Materials is in the process of enhancing its existing berm along Route 53. This project requires the removal of low-quality brush and invasive trees.

The berm, planted with native trees and reseeded with native vegetation, will further expand the habitat for the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly as well as protect and enhance local biodiversity and contribute to the overall Route 53 Corridor beautification. The berm work will be in addition to the 535 acres of protected native land Heidelberg Materials has set aside for the Hine's emerald dragonfly and the state-listed Blanding's and spotted turtles.

Additionally, the old Taylor Road schoolhouse will be removed due to its extreme deterioration and to allow for further native plant restoration. The building's demolition will allow for an uninterrupted run of native plants and animals to inhabit the eastern edge of Route 53. The schoolhouse, which is on private property and does not meet any state or federal historical designations, is in significant disrepair.

"Due to many renovations done to the building over the years, from conversion to a two-story home to remodeling for office space, it no longer holds any historical value," said Nancy Hackett, President of the Romeoville Area Historical Society.

Part of the building will live on, however, as Heidelberg Materials has given the Historical Society the "1 North Independence Blvd." address sign that hangs above the front door.

