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# GREENPRINT PARTNERS

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## **Greenprint Partners awarded \$974K USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to fund green infrastructure innovations for urban farmers**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – Greenprint Partners, a mission-driven green stormwater infrastructure delivery partner, was awarded a \$974,097 USDA Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). The project will support new tools and resources that help urban farmers benefit from public investment in green stormwater infrastructure. This represents one of 19 awards within USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)'s \$12.5 million in 2019 grants that drive the development of innovative systems and technologies for private lands conservation.

Greenprint Partners will lead a team that includes the [Center for Neighborhood Technology](#) (CNT), [Quantified Ventures](#), and a group of urban agriculture organizations based in Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis, including A Just Harvest, Advocates for Urban Agriculture, Neighborhood Gardens Trust, Gateway Greening, St. Louis Indoor Produce, and Good Life Growing.

Beginning in 2020, the team will pilot a green stormwater infrastructure program targeted to urban farmers, developing and publicizing a series of best practices to establish a scalable model for cities to develop green stormwater infrastructure BMPs on urban agriculture land. The proposal demonstrates the potential for co-locating green stormwater infrastructure practices and urban agriculture operations to improve water, soil, and energy conservation, as well as create and enhance pollinator habitats and increase productivity.

“Many US cities are exploring the benefits of investing in green infrastructure on private properties to achieve cost effectiveness, deeper public engagement, and impact. We've designed Greenprint Partners' services to help property owners like faith communities, schools, and affordable housing developers realize the benefits of green infrastructure,” said Greenprint CEO Nicole Chavas. “This CIG award enables our team to shape innovative green infrastructure solutions for urban farmers, who stand to benefit in many ways.”



"We're thrilled to be working with Greenprint Partners on this critical, timely, and innovative initiative designed to drive capital to urban farmers. By strategically scaling nature-based infrastructure solutions, farmers, cities, investors, and citizens can all win," said Eric Letsinger, CEO, Quantified Ventures.

This is the second CIG award for Greenprint Partners. The first award funded the Peoria-based stormwater farm, the [Well Farm at Voris Field](#), which has won local, state, and national awards, including the US Water Alliance's [2019 US Water Prize](#) for Private Sector Innovation.

The grant is provided through the NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants program, which is funding the future of agriculture and conservation through grants to organizations and universities that are developing the next generation of tools and technologies to boost conservation on agricultural lands.

"We are funding innovation," said NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr. "These projects are tackling some of our most critical challenges head on and will result in new science-based tools for our toolbox and cutting-edge systems we can use to help farmers and ranchers improve the health of their operations and protect our natural resources for the future."

The 2019 funding pool focused on four priority areas: water quantity, urban agriculture, pollinator habitat and accelerating the pace and scale of conservation adoption. NRCS selected 19 projects for CIG awards from among 114 proposals that represented a combined funding request total of \$91,841,358.

**Greenprint Partners** is a green infrastructure delivery partner that helps cities achieve high-impact, community-driven stormwater solutions at scale. Our green infrastructure projects are designed to maximize community benefits, delivered at scale, and maintained for the long-term. Greenprint Partners is a women-owned, certified B-Corp. Additional information available at: [greenprintpartners.com](http://greenprintpartners.com).

**The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)** is a national leader in promoting livable and sustainable urban communities. For 40 years, CNT has combined rigorous research with effective action, using both public policy and market forces to achieve sustainability and equity goals. CNT's programs leverage its analytical strengths, community connections, innovative policy ideas, and entrepreneurial instincts to produce meaningful results.

**Quantified Ventures** is an outcomes-based capital firm that drives transformative health, social, and environmental impact. We specialize in creating outcomes-based financing for government, private, and nonprofit entities to solve some of the most intractable environmental problems facing communities today. Specifically, we pioneered and first introduced Environmental Impact Bonds, as one outcomes-based vehicle to address DC Water's storm water challenges in 2016 in Washington, DC.

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