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## INFORMATION:

### **Removal of Fall Cankerworm Bands from City Street Trees**

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The City contracts to install and remove over 6,000 tree bands on Willow Oaks to prevent the adult female cankerworms from climbing the trees to lay her eggs. In the past staff have removed the bands in mid-April, attempting to catch some of the late-hatching caterpillars.

Last year staff discovered there is a beetle in the area which feeds on cankerworms. The predator is the Fiery Searcher Beetle (below), which grows to more than an inch long and will climb trees to get to the caterpillars. These beetles have been known to eat hundreds of caterpillars a day. Working with Dr. Don Booth of the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, staff developed a plan to remove the bands early than normal, after the females quit laying eggs and before the caterpillars hatch. This will enable the Fiery Searcher Beetle to climb the trees and feed on the emerging cankerworms. Street tree band removal will begin about March 1 and will take a week to ten days to complete. Private property owners are also encouraged to begin removing tree bands in early March.



### **City of Charlotte Idea Selected to Participate in Urban Prototyping Lab**

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One of the City of Charlotte's grant proposals for the [Knight Cities Challenge](#), "No Barriers," has been selected to participate in an urban prototyping lab pilot to gain insight on how to take a project proposal from idea to execution. The No Barriers project focuses on engaging neighborhoods to work together to create something fun and prideworthy around physical barriers that may also act as a symbolic divide.

Students from Parsons School of Design at the New School in New York City, in collaboration with the award-winning design firm IDEO, will work in the cities of Charlotte and Detroit to build and test ideas on the ground and gather feedback from local residents through an inclusive, participatory design process.

Council will be invited to a kick-off event to meet the students on March 25 at 5:30 p.m., and to participate in the prototype event itself called "Friday Night Lights" starting at 6 p.m. on Friday,

March 27. Invitations with more details are forthcoming. The Knight Foundation press release is available here: <http://www.knightfoundation.org/press-room/press-release/building-more-successful-cities-focus-parsons-scho/>

If the City receives the grant from Knight Cities, the lessons from this prototyping experience will be used to inform the grant funded project.