

NLB Concrete Buster® Hydrodemolition Robot Restores Historic Cobblestone Street

IVS Hydrodemolition of Waverly, WV recently removed an asphalt coating from the streets of a historic district of Lynchburg, VA with NLB's Concrete Buster hydrodemolition system. The original street surfaces were made up of "Belgian Blocks", square stones which were used as ship ballasts during colonial times.

When sailing ships were leaving Europe empty to pick up cargo in the colonies, it was necessary to add weight to maintain the proper sailing characteristics during the Atlantic crossing. Upon arrival, the stones were off-loaded and used to pave the streets of colonial cities.



IVS Hydrodemolition removed the asphalt from a pre-milled surface at a rate of 120 sq. feet (37 sq. meters) per an hour using NLB's Model 4400 Concrete Buster robot in conjunction with a 20,000 psi (1400 bar) high-pressure water jetting system. The asphalt was completely removed and the original stone block material was undamaged.

The resulting surface was the original light-colored Belgian Blocks. The Concrete Buster even removes the embedded asphalt material from the cracks between the blocks.

Several other communities have expressed an interest in using the NLB hydrodemolition method to restore the streets of historic districts.



Left: The NLB Concrete Buster robot completely loosened the embedded asphalt for easy removal without damaging the block surface.

Above: The cleaned Belgian Block street surface will restore the original character of the streets of Lynchburg, VA.

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