

**CASE STUDY**  
**Ardmore Place**

Uncovering a historic brick street on the city's West Side

Ardmore Place is a quaint residential street on the city's West Side, stretching just one block between Baynes Street and Richmond Avenue. The narrow tree-lined street features large multi-story homes, most of which were built in the early 20th century and have historic charm. At the west end of the street is Lafayette International High School, a large stone, brick, and terra-cotta building in the French Renaissance Revival style and one of the oldest public schools in the city. Ardmore is also home to one of the city's numerous brick and cobblestone streets. Workers laid the bricks on Ardmore more than a century ago, but they were covered with layers of asphalt and blacktop for decades. During a typical street resurfacing project in 2013, neighbors noticed the bricks beneath the pavement and advocated for their restoration. The original brick street offers benefits that asphalt pavement does not—it gives the street a charming, historic appearance that contributes to a distinct community character; it slows vehicles making the street safer for pedestrians; plus, it lets rain and snowmelt seep into the ground rather than running off into the sewer system.

**Community Partnerships**

The Ardmore Place Block Club drove the effort by getting neighborhood residents to band together to petition the City's Department of Public Works, Parks & Streets to restore the brick street, rather than repave it with asphalt—and the City listened, partnering with Buffalo Sewer to carry out the restoration project. The effort to restore the brick surface was a unifying force for the community, as residents banded together to appeal to local government officials for the restoration.



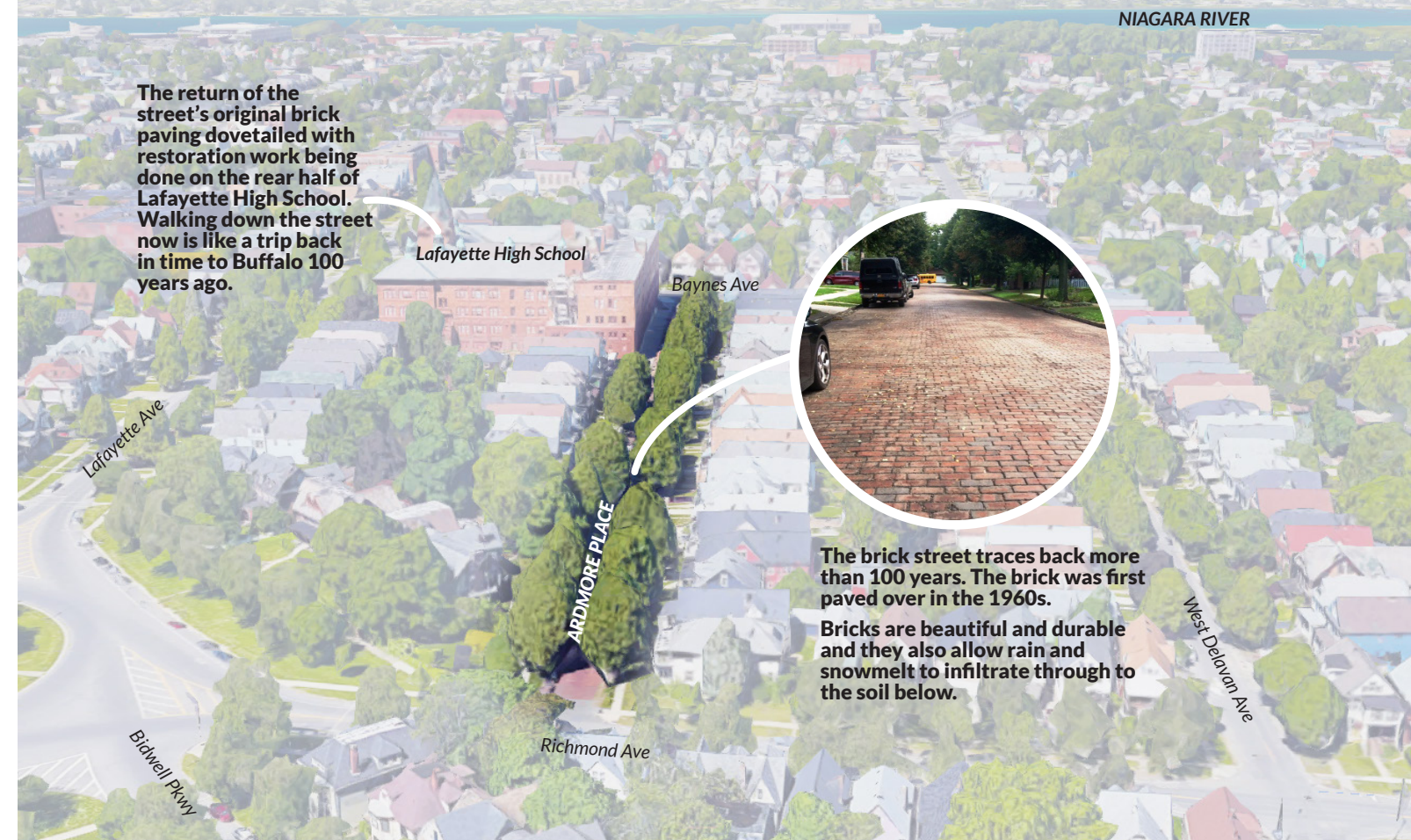
**Project Timeframe**  
**2013**

**Keeping the stormwater challenge in check with green infrastructure on Ardmore Place**

**0.7 acres of impervious surfaces removed**

**These investments on Ardmore Place manage stormwater for 1.4 acres of the City.**

**11,973** gallons of runoff prevented from entering the sewer system in a typical rainfall event.



The return of the street's original brick paving dovetailed with restoration work being done on the rear half of Lafayette High School. Walking down the street now is like a trip back in time to Buffalo 100 years ago.

The brick street traces back more than 100 years. The brick was first paved over in the 1960s. Bricks are beautiful and durable and they also allow rain and snowmelt to infiltrate through to the soil below.

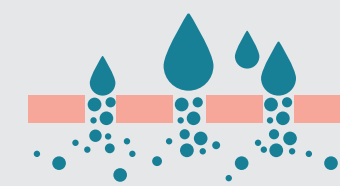
**Green Infrastructure on Ardmore Place**



In preparation for a street resurfacing project in 2013, City of Buffalo crews began removing asphalt from Ardmore Place and uncovered an intact brick street underneath. Buffalo Sewer partnered with the City to transform the project from a mere repaving job to a brick street restoration.



The effort to restore the brick surface brought together neighbors to advocate for the restoration. Residents joined together to chip away at the asphalt and hose down the weathered bricks.



Uncovering the bricks from this 0.2 mile-long street removes nearly 12,000 gallons of stormwater from entering sewers in a typical rainfall event.

