



Before



After

EVERGREEN CEMETERY STREAM DAYLIGHTING AND RESTORATION

In 2022, the Village of Chagrin Falls received a \$201,000 Ohio EPA Section 319(h) grant to daylight 230 feet and restore a total of 400 linear feet of stream along a tributary of the Chagrin River at Evergreen Cemetery. This project daylighted a buried tributary while also addressing eroding streambanks, polluted stormwater runoff, and water quality impairments.

Decades ago, the tributary running through Evergreen Cemetery was buried underground in a culvert, which degraded downstream habitat quality and created stormwater management challenges. Severe erosion occurred downstream of the culvert, sending excess sediment and pollutants into the Chagrin River. Invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, and Japanese barberry were also widespread throughout the site.

Completed in 2025, the restoration removed the culverted portion of the tributary and restored the stream to a natural condition. Streambanks were graded to stable slopes, a floodplain bench was created, and a series of in-stream features such as rock sills and riffle-pool sequences were installed. These bioengineered practices help stabilize the channel, provide high-quality habitat, and improve stormwater management. The floodplain and streambanks were also planted with native wetland vegetation to further enhance ecological function.

This restoration improves habitat quality, reduces erosion and downstream flooding risks, and enhances the scenic character of Evergreen Cemetery. By restoring natural stream function, the project protects the high-quality habitat of the Chagrin River and ensures the cemetery remains a scenic retreat for visitors.

The project was designed by Verdantas and constructed by Mr. Excavator, Inc. in 2025.



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