functioning to provide habitat to the stream community, filter pollutants from the terrestrial ecosystem, and retard storm flows.

4.4 Additional Field Investigations to Assess Function

Additional detail of how the riparian areas and wetlands are functioning under current conditions can be gleaned from a targeted field investigation. While outside of the scope of this Technical Strategy, a trained field scientist can assess structural features such as vegetation, landform, and large woody debris and assign the condition of the riparian corridor/wetland to one of four categories:

- *Properly functioning*
- *Functional - At Risk* - wetland area is in functional condition but an existing soil, water, or vegetation attribute makes it susceptible to degradation.
- *Nonfunctional* – wetland areas that clearly do not provide adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to dissipate stream energy.
- *Unknown* – wetland areas that lack sufficient information to make an evaluation.

5.0 Technical Strategy Stage 3: Establish Priorities.

5.1 Streambank Assessment within the Cayuga Lake Watershed

As part of the *Preliminary Watershed Characterization* phase of the *Cayuga Lake Watershed RPP*, the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council led an intensive field effort to inventory streambanks and roadbank conditions. This effort has produced invaluable site-specific information regarding the extent of erosion and conditions of the riparian corridor throughout the 785 square mile watershed.

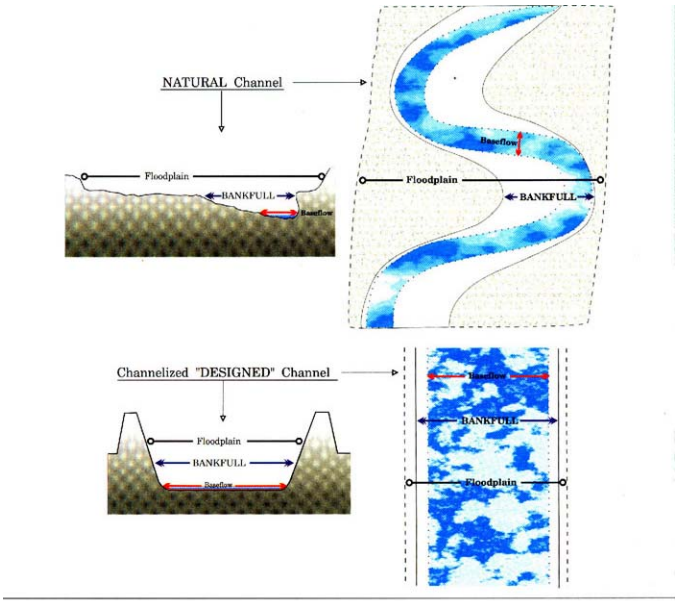

Figure 6

According to the streambank inventory, a number of streams within the watershed have been channelized, banks straightened with rock walls or railroad ties and major sections of streams altered. Figure 6 illustrates a natural stream vs. a channelized one. Floodplains are often cut off from the stream channel and, as in the illustration, adjacent levees are constructed to contain flood flows within one large channel. The objective is to allow areas of the floodplain to be developed commercially without the risk of flooding. The effect of this is that the previous flood stage is now associated