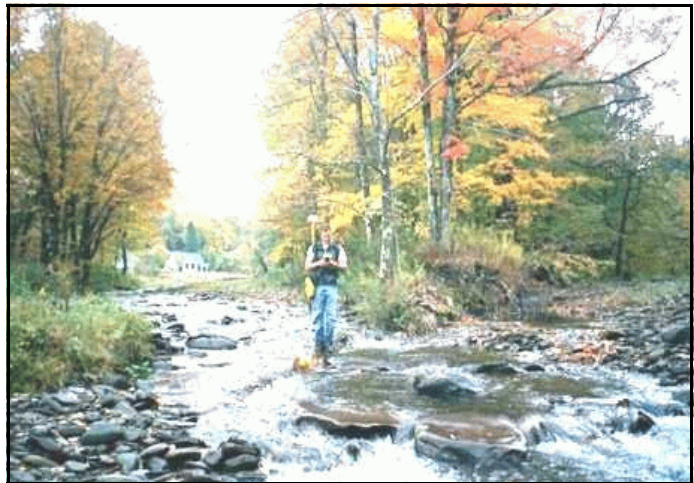

V. Assessment of The Batavia Kill

The first and most important step in any assessment procedure is the correlation of available historical information with the collection of baseline data on stream or watershed conditions. Baseline data includes information on the existing stream structure, function and disturbance factors, and provides a reference point to compare historical changes with current conditions.



Data collected during initial assessment activities, in combination with a monitoring strategy, can provide an effective framework for prediction of stream responses to change. The ability to predict stream response with a reasonable degree of accuracy, will allow stream managers to focus resources, and provide the information that is critical to the development of effective management strategies. Available resources and time constraints typically hamper the collection of all potential data, therefore resources must be prioritized based upon the importance of the data to the scope of the project. In order to properly identify and document the extent of problems located within the Batavia Kill watershed and stream corridor, several qualitative and quantitative assessment tools were used to create a framework for assessment and monitoring.

For the purpose of this SMP, the primary assessment and monitoring activities undertaken during the Batavia Kill Stream Management Project have been presented as two main categories. Assessment activities have been subdivided into those completed on a broader, or watershed level scale, and those completed in the immediate stream corridor. The division of the assessment strategy into these categories is not intended to imply that either level of assessment can be done exclusive of the other if an effective SMP is to be developed. This delineation of stream corridor level and watershed scale assessments has been used solely for the organization of this plan and is not intended as two separate ideals.