

Model Train Open House

Step back in time while reliving the days when trains frequented the Rochester landscape. Watch as they traverse the city and countryside throughout the four seasons.

Free Tours Available:

Tour hours are the last Saturday of the month from 11 am – 2 pm. Other tours available throughout the year by appointment.

For expanded December holiday schedule, visit www.edgertonmodelrailroadclub.com

Edgerton R-Center
41 Backus Street
(585) 428-6769



 **Malik D. Evans, Mayor**
City of Rochester, NY • Rochester City Council

HOW IT ALL BEGAN...

Visit Rochester in days gone by. The Edgerton Model Train Room layouts depict Rochester in all four seasons and bring you back to Rochester's illustrious railroad era.

Capt. Henry H. Jensen suggested creating a model railroad exhibit for area residents and tourists in 1950, and convinced several community groups to participate. Capt. Jensen was a member of the Rochester Police Department and director of the Police Athletic League (P.A.L.).

Rochester Art Club painted the dioramas for the display. Track blueprints were provided by the Lionel Corporation and engineered by the Kodak City Model Railroad Club (now known as the Edgerton Model Railroad Club). The City of Rochester supplied carpenters, who built the room.

The Lionel Corporation donated \$5,000 worth of trains, tracks and accessories. Throughout the years many model train businesses and individuals have made donations to continue to build and maintain this Rochester treasure.

New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey officially opened the "P.A.L. Model Railroad Heaven" with a ceremony on October 27, 1950. Governor Dewey drove a miniature gold spike into the exhibit's track.

In 1961, the P.A.L. turned over the operation of the train room to the City of Rochester, which still maintains the exhibit today.

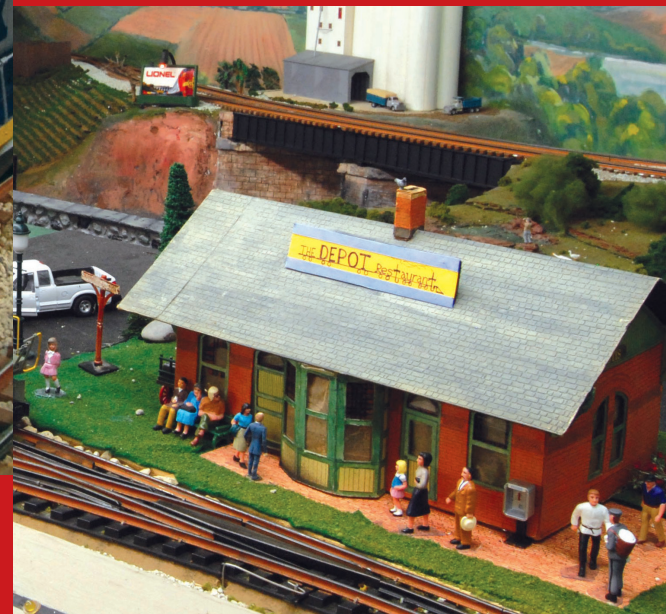
In 1991, Lionel again donated a large amount of stock and accessories; and in 2004 a major contribution of stock and accessories was received through the National Train Collector's Association (TCA). In 1992 the exhibit was rededicated to the many volunteers who help maintain it.

On November 12, 2000, the Train Room marked its Golden Anniversary. The exhibit is a treasure that many visitors and train enthusiasts enjoy year round. The Model Railroad Exhibit is maintained and supported by the volunteer Edgerton Model Railroad Club and the City's Recreation Bureau staff.

On November 27, 2010 the 60th anniversary was celebrated with special events and ribbon cutting.

The exhibit's pieces are rare and valuable. Some of the trains we own are listed below.

- French heavy freight and passenger engine, donated by Rochester's Sister City of Rennes, France.
- Rare German "HO" gauge train equipment includes an engine, several cars, tracks and controls.
- Other donated equipment includes models dating back to as early as 1906, engines and cars for both "standard" and "O" gauge track, Dorfan models and some American Flyer "N" scale units.



Join the Edgerton Model Railroad Club Today!

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone/Cell Phone

Email Address

Edgerton R-Center, 41 Backus Street
Rochester, NY 14608 • (585) 428-6769, or visit
www.edgertonmodelrailroadclub.com



SUMMER IN THE CITY



FALL IN LETCHWORTH PARK



WINTER IN THE MOUNTAINS



SPRING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Visit Rochester in days gone by when **trains were magical...**

The Summer Scene depicts Rochester in the 1950s. Some of the landmarks that make up the City's skyline are visible. What can you see?

- Kodak • Sibley Tower • The Powers Building
- University of Rochester Rush-Rhees Library
- The old New York Central Railroad terminal
- Baltimore and Ohio Railroad terminal
- Lake Ontario at Summerville • Genesee River

The center of the layout shows the old New York Central Railroad terminal. Passenger shelters can be seen near the rear of the terminal.

The Fall Scene resembles Henrietta around Jefferson and West Henrietta Roads. The left diorama shows the old Ray Hylan Airport, which today is the site of Marketplace Mall. Two outside main loops are from the original P.A.L. layout.

The rest of the layout has been modernized. A scale reproduction of the Penfield Road underpass can be seen in the center of this layout. Just to the right of the underpass is the Genesee River Gorge at Letchworth State Park.

Here, a small town stands complete with gas stations, a drive-in movie theater and much more.

The Winter Scene represents a serene and beautiful wonderland. We are swept away in a spectacular night vista. Constellations abound, twinkling in the heavens above.

Entering Main Street of a small town, we find a fire station, police station and a McDonald's Restaurant.

The addition of "viewing ports" in this scene gives the effect of peering through a tunnel. The tracks to the Fall and Spring Scenes are visible there.

The Spring Scene brings us to a railroad junction in rural America. The valley is complete with mountains, farm houses and an arch bridge.

The bridge is an exact scale replica of one that was used by the Erie Railroad during the Great Depression. This scene was rebuilt a few years ago.

The original Lionel "O" gauge track was also replaced with GarGraves "Phantom Line" Universal track, which was donated by Don Roder, the owner of the GarGraves Trackage Corp.

LEARN MORE!

Visit: cityofrochester.gov/edgertontrain