

Rochester Youth Fishing Derby June 7, 9:00

On Saturday morning, July 8, Rochester area pre-K to 8th grade students are invited to compete in the seventeenth annual **Rochester Youth Fishing Derby at the Village Park Pond**. This pond was dredged to a 15-foot depth in 2008 by the Operating Engineers Local 965. Since then it has been stocked by the Village and DNR with bluegills, largemouth bass, flathead catfish, and channel cats. The Village is currently considering several options for stabilizing the pond banks, deepening the pond, and improving fishing at the pond. The Rochester Lions Club has expressed an interest in helping to build a handicapped accessible fishing dock when pond renovations are completed, hopefully this year.

Mrs. Molly Godar, retired Rochester High School biology teacher, will provide a short lesson on aquatic ecosystems, and will tell participants how the pond dredge spoils were made into the Rochester Arboretum.

Master fishermen will register participants, explain the rules, and conduct the fishing derby which will finish about 10:30 am. Parents and grandparents' participation will be greatly appreciated. Prizes donated by **Scheels, DNR, and the Village Sparks Committee** will be awarded in different age categories. No fishing licenses are needed for this contest. In past years, 30 to 45 young people from age 3 to 14, as well as almost as many parents and grandparents participated. These young fishers will divide up over \$300 worth of prize merchandise and gift cards.

For more information, contact the Rochester Village Office, 217-498-7192.