Montgomery State Fishing Lake is a 105-acre impoundment located four miles south and one mile east of Independence. In addition to the 105-acre lake, 303 acres of terrestrial habitat provide an abundance of wildlife.

Montgomery State Fishing Lake is built on Coal Creek, a small tributary of the Verdigris River, and many scenic bluffs are found along the creek. The stream and lake shores are covered with oak-hickory woodlands and stands of blackjack oak interspersed with a mixture of native rangelands. This provides excellent habitat diversity for a variety of wildlife. Montgomery County is rich in archeological sites, which have been found on the banks of Coal Creek.

Coal Creek is underlain with sandstone. It received its name from the abundance of shallow strips of coal, locally mined, in the early 1900s. Some of these surface-mined areas are still visible. The property was purchased, developed and is maintained by fee monies from licensed anglers and the Sportfish Restoration Program.

The lake was renovated in 1984 to eliminate undesirable fish and prevent contamination after restocking. It was reopened to fishing on January 1, 1987.

Fish species present are largemouth bass, white crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and channel catfish. Channel catfish are supplementally stocked to help meet the demand for this species. A no trash policy is in effect throughout the area. Please carry out what you carry in.

Facilities include gravel access roads, three boat ramps, two floating fishing docks, seven rock fishing piers, and two vault toilets.

The lake has several fishermen campsites. There are not any electric, water, or sewage hookups, showers, or drinkable water.

At the present time, no fees are assessed to use the area.

Special creel and length limits may be in effect for some fish species. Check the Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary and all posted notices. Seining bait fish, and using trot lines or set lines are prohibited.

A no trash policy is in effect throughout the area. Please carry out what you carry in.

Vehicles are permitted on maintained roads, parking areas and camp pads only.

Power boats may be used only for fishing. Pleasure boating is not allowed.

The consumption of cereal malt beverages containing no more that 3.2 percent alcohol is permitted.

Consult information signs on the area for complete rules and regulations that may apply to Montgomery State Fishing Lake.

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