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. Hunting is not allowed on Montgomery State Fishing Lake; however, there is abundant opportunity to view and study a variety of animals. Many species of songbirds are available for birdwatchers and photographers. Amphibians and reptiles are abundant, especially along the sandstone outcropping on the lake. Copperhead snakes are common during the warm months, so explorers should be cautious.

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. At the present time, no fees are assessed to use the area. 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 maintain good fishing in public waters, due to increasing use and harvest of certain species. Special creel and length limits may be in effect for some fish species. Check the Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary and all posted notices.

Brush piles placed along the shoreline are used to concentrate fish and improve angling success. Rock piers and floating docks give anglers access to deeper water and additional structure from the shoreline. Rock piers and floating docks give anglers access to deeper water and additional structure from the shoreline. The area is primarily managed for fishing.