

## Beautiful Lake Sylvania waits only a short drive away

•**What:** Camping, boating, fishing, hiking and loafing at Lake Sylvania State Park

•**Where:** Just outside of Montesano.

•**To do:** Summer is the time of year when Lake Sylvania State Park is at its best. This beautiful 233-acre park offers good fishing for trout and bass, great campsites, wonderful picnic spots and it's all less than 40 miles from South Sound. Campsites for summer holiday weekends — such as the Fourth of July and Labor Day — are usually reserved months in advance, but it's easy to get a spot on summer weekdays and most weekends.

Nothing is sweeter than camping on a weeknight at Lake Sylvania and then gliding back to South Sound in time for work. Many families camp during the week at the park. One of the parents comes into South Sound for the workday, while the rest of the folks hang out at the lake and have fun.

Lake Sylvania is in the hills above Montesano, and the lake is bathed in warm sunshine most of the day. The nights are cool and comfortable.

Lake Sylvania has a wonderful swimming beach, and there is a children's play area nearby.

There are also five miles of scenic hiking trails, a boat ramp and plenty of chances to see deer, elk, birds and some whopping Douglas fir and cedar trees. There is a boardwalk for fishing and walking.

The park also has a trailhead for the two-mile Sylvania Creek Forestry Trail.

•**History:** Lake Sylvania used to feed hydropower electrical generators for the city of Montesano. The park is an old logging camp, and there are signs of bygone days around the lake and on the trails. The park is open all year for day use.

•**Camping:** Lake Sylvania is open to camping from April 1 to Sept. 30. There are 35 standard campsites, six camps for hikers or cyclists and one group camp. Reservations are a very good idea. To reserve a campsite, call 888-226-7688 or go to [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov). A standard campsite is \$21 a night, a full-utility campsite is \$26 a night and a primitive campsite is \$14 a night. Check-in time is 2:30 p.m. and checkout time is 1 p.m.

- Picnicking:** There is one kitchen shelter without electricity, one sheltered picnic table and 75 unsheltered picnic tables. To reserve the kitchen shelter, call 888-226-7688.
- Boating:** There is a boat ramp. Electric motors are allowed, but gasoline motors are not. This lake is perfect for a small boat, canoe or kayak.
- Restrooms:** There are three restrooms, and two of them are equipped with showers.
- Hours:** Day use hours are 8 a.m. to dusk. Quiet hours for campers are from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.
- Directions:** From Kamilche, 108 through Mc Cleary to state Route 8. Route 8 transforms into U.S. Highway 12 at Elma. Take the Lake Sylvania exit. Turn right and drive into Montesano on Main Street. Turn left onto Spruce Avenue. Turn right onto N. Third Street, which becomes Lake Sylvania Road. The road ends at the park. There are state park directional signs from the Highway 12 exit.
- Equipment:** Fishing tackle, picnic gear, food, camping gear, warm clothes, raingear, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses — anything you need to camp and have fun on the water.
- Safety:** Keep a close eye on children, as the lake shore drops off to deep, cold water very quickly. It is easy to get lost if you wander off the trail.
- More information:** Call 888-226-7688 or go to [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov).

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