

Prairie Creek

OVERVIEW

Prairie Creek is a warmwater stream in southern Todd County, just on the border of Stearns County. It begins at the outlet of Pauley Lake and flows north until reaching D Peschel Pond. At this point, Prairie Creek flows east through the Grey Eagle Wildlife Management Area (WMA), containing a system of wetlands, until reaching Hennessy Lake. Trout Creek outlets into Prairie just north of the WMA. After flowing through Hennessy, the creek travels south about 2 miles until it outlets into Little Birch Lake on the north side. A section about a mile long just north of Hennessy was evaluated for aquatic life (AQL) and aquatic recreation (AQR) in 2020. It met the standards for both parameters.

The SRWD partners with the Little Birch Lake Association to conduct water quality monitoring on Prairie Creek and has annual data since 2012. A volunteer takes samples just north of Little Birch that are tested for total suspended solids (TSS), total phosphorus (TP), and *E. coli*. There is a slight increasing trend of *E. coli* levels in the creek over the past 10 years. Both TSS and TP levels are holding steady and have not exceeded the state water

quality standard for the past 10 years. See full monitoring report linked below, which can also be found on our website.



Helpful Links

Click on each of the below links to go to relevant and specific information.

[Little Birch Lake Monitoring Report](#)

[MPCA Water Quality Dashboard](#)

ID: 07010202-602

County: Todd

Near: Grey Eagle, Ward Springs

Length: 7.21 miles

