



Sugar Lake News

www.sugarlake.org

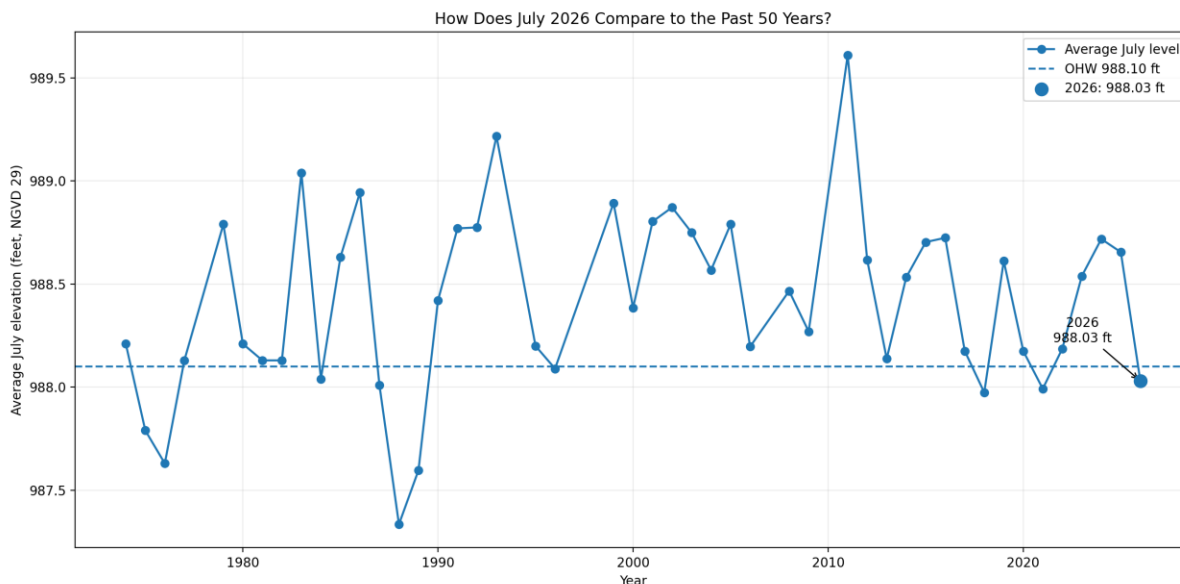
The heat has certainly been turned up these past few weeks! With water temperatures hovering in the 80s, we have no excuse not to be enjoying some lake time. From what I have observed, that is exactly what everyone has been doing. It is always fun to see friends and families enjoying life on “lake time.”

Recently, there has been some discussion about lake levels on the Sugar Lake Spirit Facebook page—along with lots of other great posts from all of you. That discussion prompted me to spend some time reviewing the information available about our beloved lake on the Minnesota DNR website.

The DNR has recorded Sugar Lake water-level data dating back to September 1938. The highest recorded level occurred on July 11, 2011, at 989.74 feet. The lowest recorded level was 985.20 feet on September 9, 1938—a difference of 4.54 feet.

The most recent reading, taken on July 16 of this year, was 987.94 feet. Sugar Lake’s Ordinary High Water Level, or OHW, is 988.10 ft. Many people mistakenly think that OHW is the average lake or a flood elevation or even an average spring lake level. It is not, OHW is used by the DNR and Wright County when determining shoreline regulations, setbacks, and many permitting decisions. It is a legally defined elevation based on long-term evidence left on the landscape. When you have a chance, browse the DNR’s Sugar Lake webpage. It contains a great deal of useful information about the lake: [Minnesota DNR LakeFinder – Sugar Lake](#)

Here is graph drawn by AI compiling DNR lake level data from the past 50 years for the month of July.



Last week, I noticed a boat placing small flag buoys approximately 150 feet from shore in front of our home. My curiosity was piqued, so Marilyn and I went out that evening to investigate. We found four flags, all located in the northwest corner of the lake.

The next day, we went out again and discovered that the flags had been moved and others had been placed in different areas. I did not remember seeing these types of markers before, so I contacted the DNR office in Sauk Rapids. I learned that the Sauk Rapids Area Fisheries staff is conducting a standard survey of Sugar Lake. This survey is completed every five years, and it will be interesting to see the results. Information from the Fisheries Division can also be found under “Lake Reports” on the Sugar Lake DNR webpage linked above.





One of the DNR flag buoys used during the 2026 Sugar Lake fisheries survey.

August brings our Annual Meeting of the Members. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, August 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Corinna Township Hall. The agenda will include a recap of the association's activities during the past year and the election of seven directors.

Before the meeting, we will send the annual membership report to all current members of record. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

I do not like to keep beating the same drum—but I will: **Sugar Lake Association needs you!**

Seven director positions will be filled at the Annual Meeting, which means we need a minimum of seven candidates on the ballot. So far, three members have volunteered to serve, leaving us at least four candidates short. However, our goal is not simply to reach the minimum. Having

more than seven candidates would give members a meaningful choice when casting their ballots and help ensure that the board reflects a variety of interests, experiences, and perspectives from around the lake.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the picnic, but I would love to hear from you beforehand. Please consider volunteering or encouraging another member whom you believe would be a good addition to the board.

You can contact me at

dmpopper9303@gmail.com or call me at **763-482-9545**.

See you at the picnic!

Dan Popp
SLA Chair

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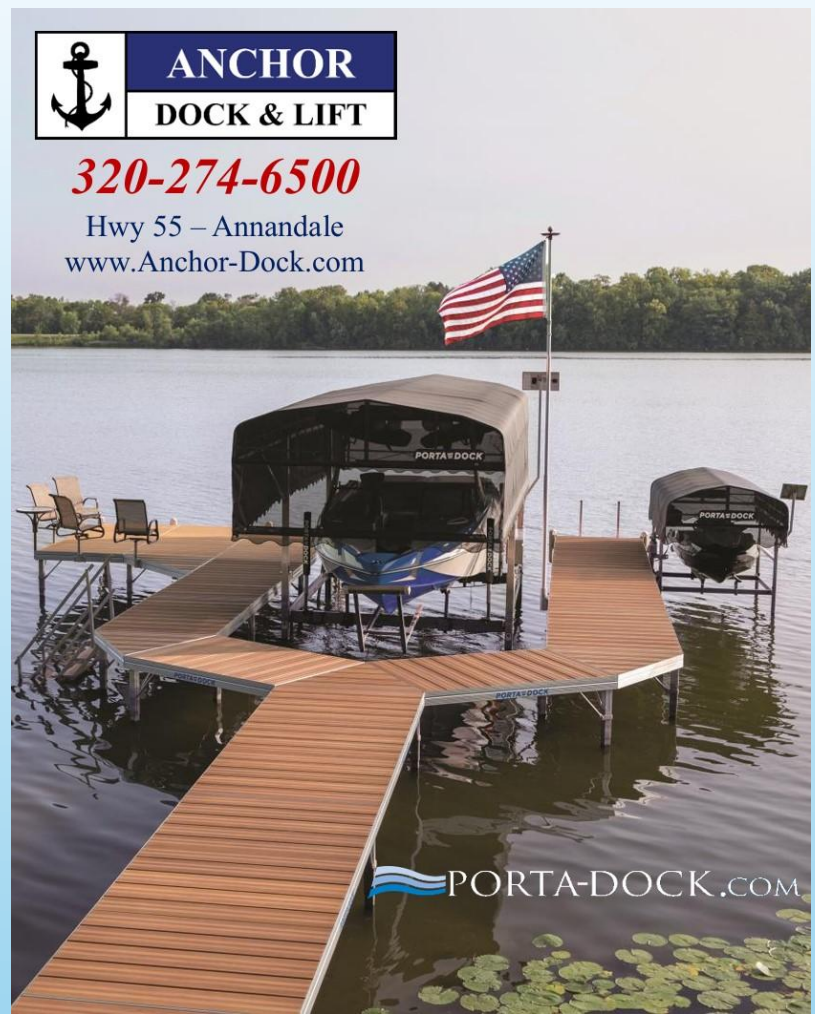
Sugar Lake Association Board Members 2025–2026

Executive Board:

- Chair = Dan Popp
(exp 8/31/2027)
- Vice Chair = Chad Hedlund
(exp. 8/31/2028)
- Treasurer = Craig Allen
(exp. 8/31/2027)
- Secretary = Lisa Salfer
(exp. 8/31/2026)
- Fisheries = Jim Schimelpfenig
(exp. 8/31/2027)
- Membership Chair = Mark Ertl
- Water Quality/Vegetation =
Dan Erdmann

Board Members:

- Ron Elsner
(exp. 8/31/2026)
- Steve Mann
(exp. 8/31/2026)
- Kristin Otten
(exp. 8/31/2026)
- Mark Snyder
(exp. 8/31/2026)
- Damin Barnier
(exp. 8/31/2027)
- Bill Biebesheimer
(exp. 8/31/2027)
- Steve Heaney
(exp. 8/31/2027)
- Chuck Bohanon
(exp. 8/31/2028)
- Gary Borrel
(exp. 8/31/2028)
- Cathy Gruys
(exp. 8/31/2028)
- Danya Maurer
(exp. 8/31/2028)



Treasurer's Report = Craig Allen

Account Balances as of June 30, 2026:

- Lake Central Bank Checking: **\$38,724.36**
- Edward Jones: **\$269,031.13**

Sip and Shop Purchase total: \$ 6,699

Lake Improvement: Corrina Township awarded contract to Knife River for Hollister Ave improvement project which installs in 2 stormceptors. No timeline is set for the project start, but plan to start sometime this summer.

Water Quality & Lake Health – Dan Erdmann

Water Statistics (July 15, 2026) 2pm

- Clarity: **13.5 ft**
- Surface Temperature: **89°F**
- Air Temp: **92°F**
- Inlet level: **14 in**
- Outlet level: **19.5 in**
- Condition: **2** (1 = very good, 5 = very poor)

Previous years history

Date	Clarity	Water Temp	Air Temp	Culvert Inlet	Culvert Outlet
06-19-14	8.5'	70°	69°	26"	31"
06-17-15	15.5'	72°	74°	23.50"	29.00"
06-23-16	12.0'	76°	70°	23.25"	27.75"
06-14-17	16.0'	72°	78°	22.00"	26.50"
06-13-18	9.0'	72°	73°	16.25"	21.50"
06-13-19	12.0'	70°	63°	23.00"	28.00"
07-01-20	11.0'	78°	83°	15.50"	21.50"
06-08-21	21.0'	70°	78°	18.00"	23.75"
06-17-22	18.0'	72°	76°	20.50"	26.50"
06-12-23	21.0'	70°	80°	26.5"	—
(Missing 2024)	—	—	—	—	—
06-19-25	14.0'	70°	80°	20.5"	26.0"
07-15-26	13.5'	89° (surface) / 86° (at 13')	92°	14"	19.5"



Sugar Lake Association 2026 Event Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location	Details / Contact
Aug 8	Sugar Lake Picnic	12p–3p	7705 117th Street NW (Rachel Property)	Free for all SLA members Games, food, beer and wine, raffle, door prizes
Aug 20	Board of Directors Meeting* (Annual Meeting)	6:30p	Corinna Township Hall	Annual meeting; new directors elected
Sep 17	Board of Directors Meeting*	6:30p	Corinna Township Hall	3rd Thursday of the month
Oct 15	Board of Directors Meeting*	6:30p	Corinna Township Hall	3rd Thursday of the month

Membership Matters: **Supporting Sugar Lake in 2026**

Your membership and donations to the Sugar Lake Association (SLA) directly support the lake preservation efforts that keep Sugar Lake healthy, safe, and beautiful for everyone. Annual dues fund critical programs such as water quality testing, AIS prevention, and shoreline protection.

It's time to renew your 2026 membership. If you haven't had a chance yet, we invite you to join your neighbors in supporting this year's preservation work.

 **Renew or Donate Online Annual Membership Dues: \$50**

Use the link below to pay your annual dues or make an additional donation:

[Make Payment Here](#)

 **Prefer to Mail Your Payment?**

Sugar Lake Association
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 **2026 Membership Snapshot**

We're off to a strong start, but we still need your help to reach full participation.

Total households in SLA database: 290

Memberships renewed for 2026: 225

Memberships not yet renewed: 70

3 new owners on the lake

Every membership, every single one, helps fund the work that protects our lake. If you haven't renewed yet, please consider doing so today. Your support truly makes a difference.



Photos and Info: Sugar Lake Boat Parade

Friday, July, 3, 2026

A huge round of applause to **all** of our Sugar Lake Boat Parade participants! Every boat brought energy, creativity, and patriotic flair to the lake, and we're grateful for each person who took the time to decorate, gather their crew, and join the fun. Your enthusiasm is what makes this parade such a beloved tradition.

We're excited to recognize our top three winners, whose standout designs rose to the top with exceptional creativity and presentation:

1st Place — Boat #4: "Soccer World Sugar Cup" A vibrant, high-energy theme that turned the lake into a global celebration. The creativity and detail made this entry unforgettable.

2nd Place — Boat #7: "Sugar Disco" A dazzling, music-filled display that brought sparkle, rhythm, and pure fun to the parade. A crowd-pleasing favorite from start to finish.

3rd Place — Boat #10: "Patriotic 250 Years — Statue of Liberty" A beautifully crafted tribute to America's 250th anniversary, complete with iconic imagery and heartfelt patriotic spirit.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's parade unforgettable. Your creativity and community pride lit up Sugar Lake in the best way.







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Sugar Lake Picnic: Saturday, August 8, 2026



Sugar Lake Picnic Details

 **Date:** Saturday, August 8, 2026

 **Time:** 12 PM – 3 PM

 **Location:**
7705 117th Street NW
(Rachel Property)

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Safety Spotlight: Personal Watercraft Reminders for Sugar Lake

With nearly **100 Personal Watercraft (PWCs)** now on Sugar Lake, our shoreline is more active than ever. As we head into the holiday week, it's a great time to revisit a few important safety and courtesy guidelines. These come directly from the **2025 Minnesota Boating Guide (DNR)** and help keep the lake enjoyable for everyone.



General Boating Rules

It is against the law:

- To operate any watercraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- To operate a watercraft so its wash or wake endangers, harasses, or interferes with any person or property.



Personal WaterCraft (PWC)-Specific Requirements

Operators must:

Maintain **slow-no-wake speeds (5 mph or less)** within **150 feet** of:

- Non-motorized boats
- Shoreline (except when launching or landing skiers directly to/from open water)
- Docks
- Swim rafts
- Swimmers
- Moored or anchored boats

Operate in a way that does not unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger life, limb, or property.

***Follow designated operating hours: 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset ***



A Community Reminder

Sugar Lake has seen a few recent reports of risky or inattentive PWC operation. With plenty of summer still ahead, this is a perfect moment for all of us to recommit to Common Sense and Common Courtesy on the water.

A little awareness — especially during busy holiday weekends — helps keep Sugar Lake safe, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone who calls it home.



Youth Operator Requirement

Don't forget: Youth Watercraft Operator permits are now required under updated state regulations.

North Launch Info:

A new sign and a set of **self-service AIS prevention tools** has been approved by the DNR at the north landing. These resources are designed to help all boaters follow best practices and do their part in preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.



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sugarlakemember@gmail.com

****If Corinna Township residents wish to use the facility for extended hours – please see the link below to complete the application for a FOB.
Cost is \$30 – FOB is good through Dec. 31, 2026:****

Corinna Residents Compost and Brush FOB Application



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Corinna Township Town Board meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

Corinna Town Hall: [9801 Ireland Ave NW, Annandale, MN 55302](https://www.corinnatownship.com)

Clerk: Mary Barkley Brown PH: 320-274-8049

Visit the Corinna Township website at www.corinnatownship.com.

Clearwater Township Town Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

Clearwater Town Hall: [15015 State Hwy 24 Clearwater, MN 55320](https://www.clearwatertownshipmn.gov)

Clerk: Jean Just Town Hall Phone: 320-558- 6790

Visit the Clearwater Township website at: www.clearwatertownshipmn.govoffice2.com.

Wake Safe Reminder

As we kick off the summer season, we want to share a friendly reminder about Wake Safe practices on Sugar Lake.

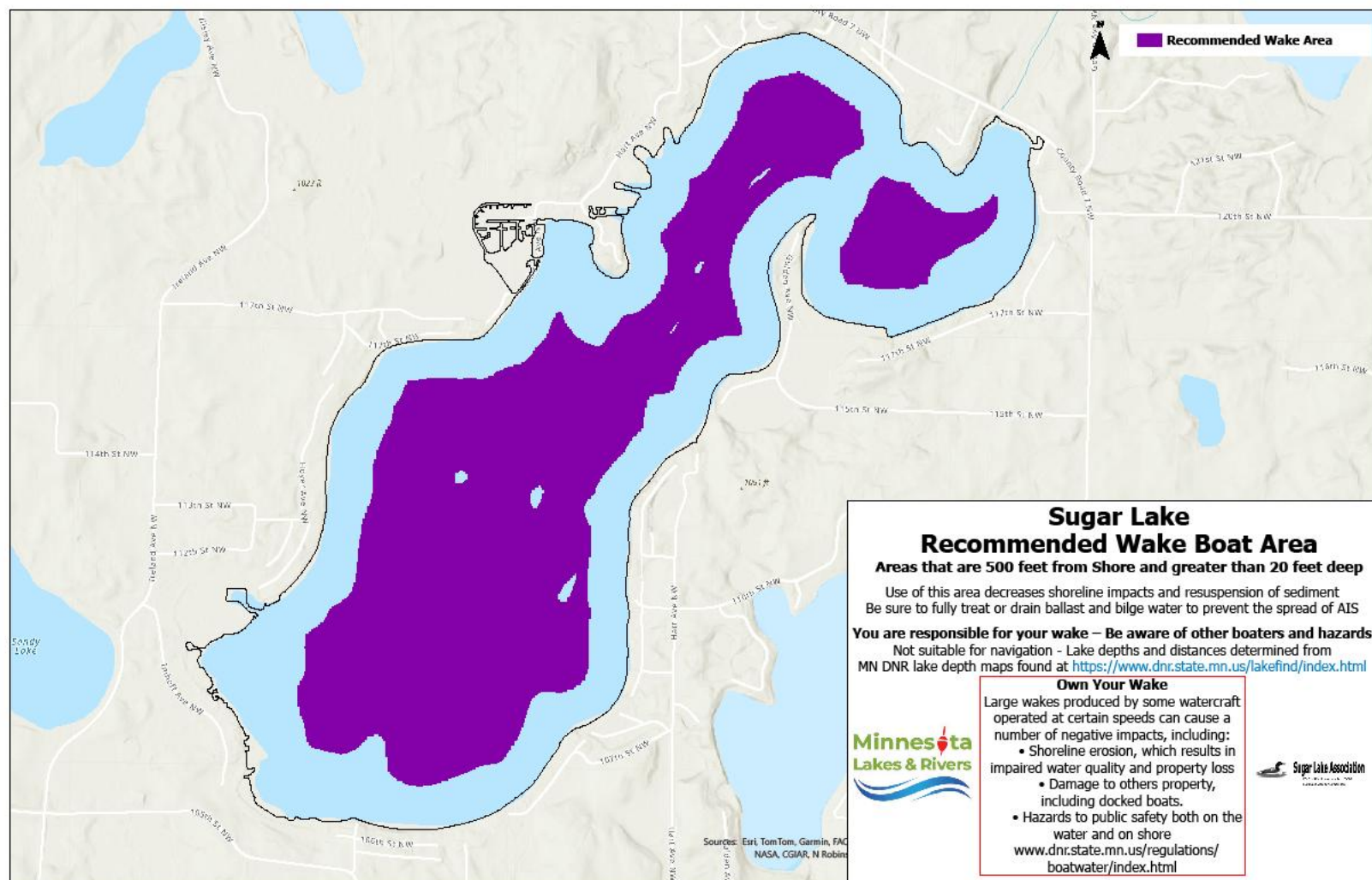
Sugar Lake has become a popular spot for wake surfing. To help protect our shoreline and maintain a great experience for everyone, we ask wake boats and wake-sports enthusiasts to use the deeper, central areas of the lake and avoid operating close to shore.

And here's the good news: During Summer 2025, many Sugar Lakers noticed that wake boaters *did* follow these guidelines. Several local anglers, who fish multiple lakes in the region, have even commented that Sugar Lake wake boaters are noticeably more courteous and responsible than those on other lakes.

A huge thank-you to the wake boaters who are already doing their part. Your efforts make a real difference for our shoreline, water quality, and everyone who enjoys the lake.

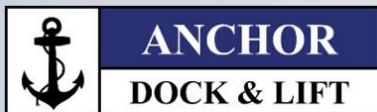
The Sugar Lake Wake Safe Map below highlights the recommended wake-surfing zone: 500 feet from shore. (20 feet or deeper) These areas are best suited for wake sports with the least impact on the lake environment.

Your continued cooperation helps keep Sugar Lake healthy and enjoyable for all.



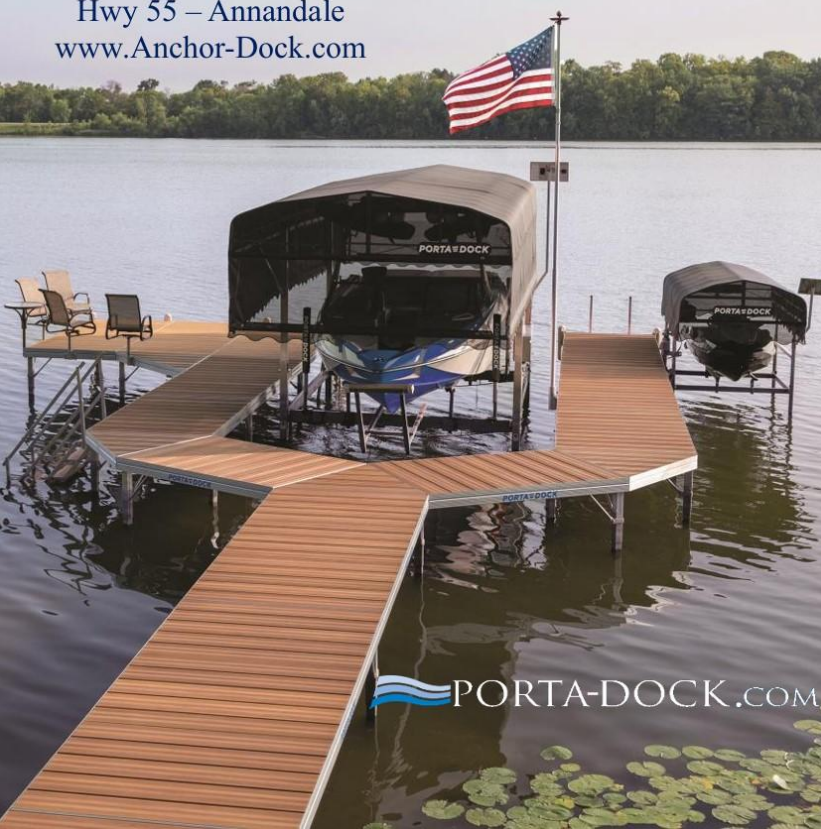


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