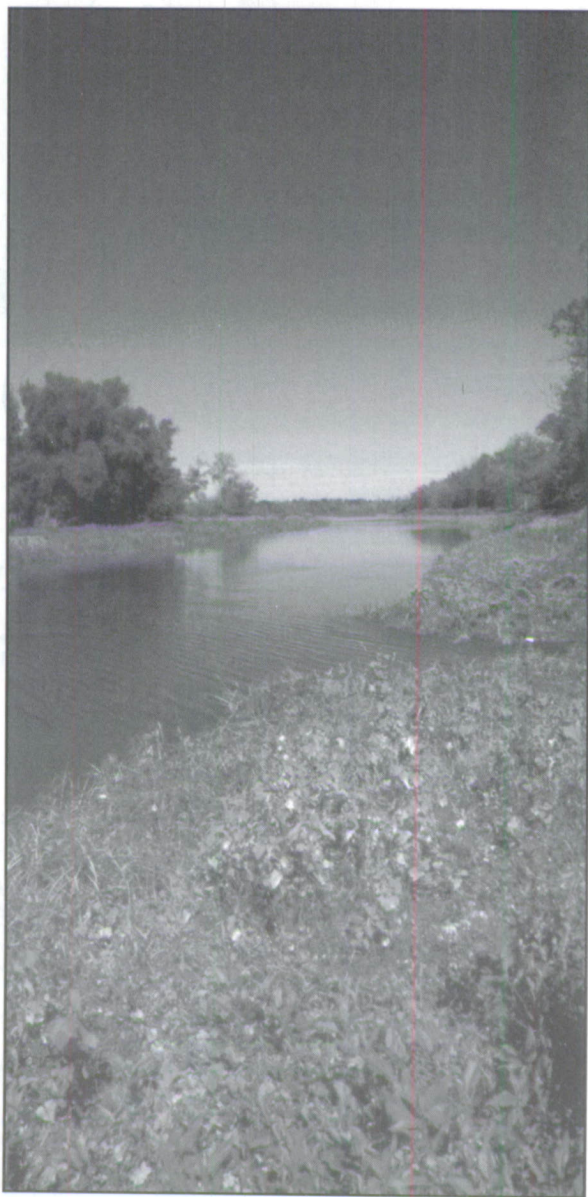


Mississippi River

STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA



Illinois
Department of
Natural Resources

Mississippi River Area

Imagine an area that includes 15 wildlife management areas and 13 public access areas, spanning more than 24,000 acres, and scattered along 75 miles of two major rivers. Add awe-inspiring bluffs that tower over the river valley, providing breathtaking views, and you begin to get some idea of what awaits you at the Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Area.

As its name implies, the area lies within Mississippi River Navigation Pools 25 and 26, and includes portions of both the Illinois and the Mississippi rivers. The total project area consists of 24,386 acres of general plan lands. Of this total, 16,875 acres are actively managed for wetland habitat enhancement and public recreation.

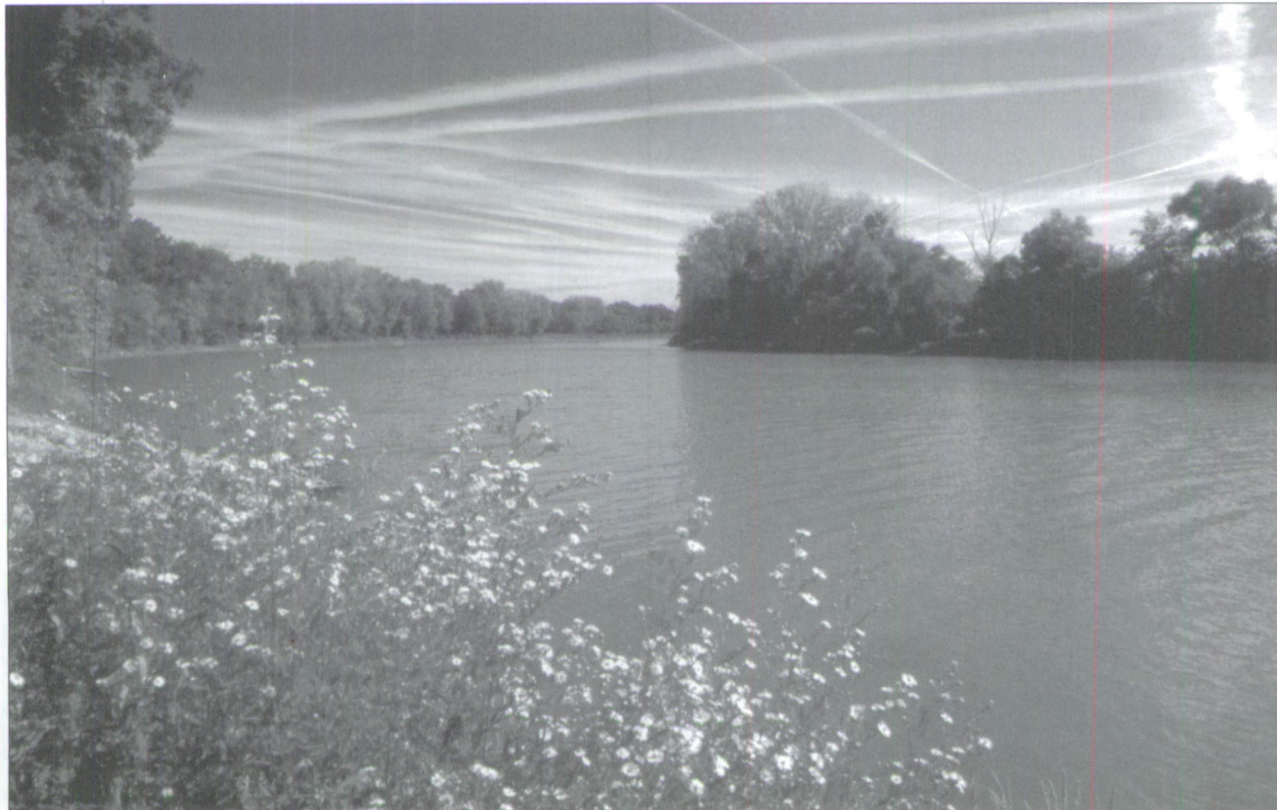
The Mississippi River Area's main emphasis is wetland management, with waterfowl as the primary species of concern. Hunters, fishermen, boaters and birdwatchers can

enjoy the beauty of the area, yet there is ample opportunity for access to civilization just a few miles away.

A drive along the scenic Great River Road leads through Grafton, past Elsah, a quaint 19th Century village, and on to Alton, with many antique stores and other accommodations. A ride on the Brussels Ferry takes you across the Illinois River and into Calhoun County, where apple orchards and roadside markets await. There is truly something for every type of visitor to the area.

History

The Mississippi River Area has a rich history. Evidence of millions of years of geological change can be seen throughout, including four to five thousand feet of sedimentary rock. The bluffs between Alton and Grafton are only a tiny fraction of the thousands of feet of rock extending below the surface.



The Ice Age saw the advancement and regression of four glaciers. The last glacier, the Wisconsin, did not enter the area, but the melting ice widened the river valleys and contributed silt, sand and gravels to the two river systems. The melding of two such major river systems strongly influenced both ancient and modern man.

Archeologists have identified four cultural periods within the Upper Mississippi River Valley—Paleo (prior to 5000 B.C.); Eastern Archaic (5000 to 1000 B.C.); Woodland (2000 B.C. to 1400 A.D.); and the Mississippian (800 to 1700 A.D.). The Mississippian was strongly influenced by the Woodland Culture, as evidenced by large populated sites, intensive agriculture and religious cults.

Europeans began exploring the area in the mid-18th Century. By 1824, the importance of the Mississippi River as a trade and transportation route had been established, and Congress appropriated \$75,000 to remove dead trees (snags) from the river.

Congress appropriated funds in 1907 to create a six-foot navigation channel, but existing technology was not adequate. The 1927 River and Harbors Act authorized study of the Mississippi between Minneapolis and the Missouri River. The outcome of this study was a 1930 authorization to build 24 low-head dams with locks between Minneapolis and Alton.

Boating

Boating along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers provides many opportunities for relaxing, sunning, enjoying the scenic shoreline and bluffs, bird-watching and viewing the majesty of these great river systems. Smaller boats and canoes might better appreciate the shelter and quiet beauty that can be found in the backwater lakes.

Nearly 40 miles of the mighty Mississippi River are available via the Piasa Creek Access Area and Royal Landing; and the Glades, Godar Diamond, Hadley Landing and Michael Landing provide access along 35 miles of the Illinois River. All of these areas are contained in Navigation Pool 26.

Above Winfield Dam (Lock and Dam 25), Cockrell Hollow, Red's Landing and Riprap Landing provide access to 33 miles of Navigation Pool 25.

Picnicking

In keeping with the pristine beauty of the area, primitive picnic areas are available.

Camping

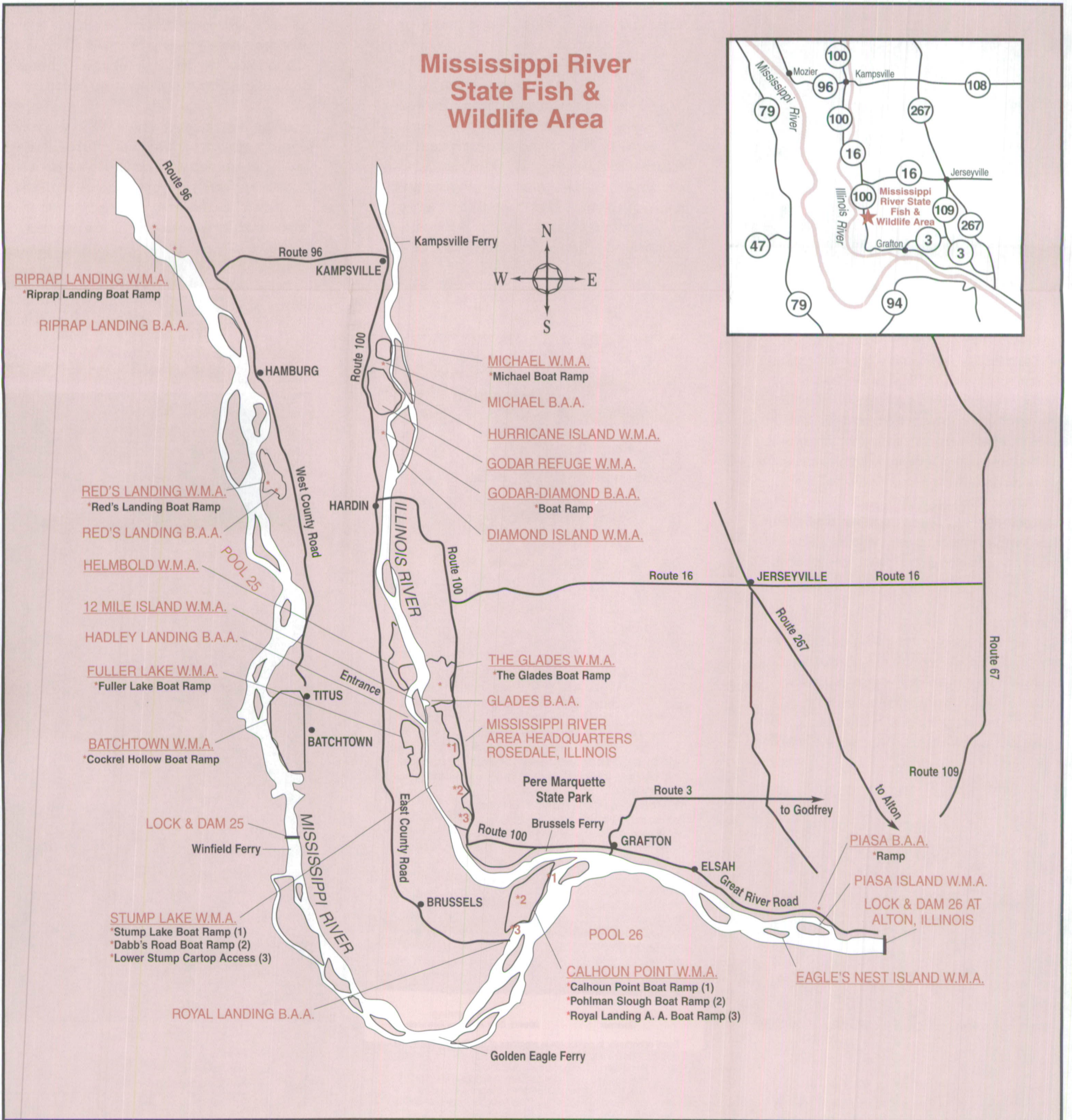
Camping is strictly prohibited in the entire MRA, but is available at Pere Marquette State Park, just north of Grafton on the Great River Road.

For more information, contact Mississippi River Area site superintendent, R.R. 1, Box 182, Grafton, IL 62037. Phone (681) 376-3303.

*HUNTING
G - Good
F - Fair
P - Poor

M - Mississippi (Pools 25 & 26)
I - Illinois (Pool 26)
L - Backwater Lakes
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
AA - Access Area

	ACREAGE	WATER	AGRICULTURAL	WOODLAND	PICNICKING	FISHING	BOAT RAMPS	RIVER ACCESS	DOVES	WATERFOWL	FOREST GAME	UPLAND GAME	WATERFOWL REST AREAS	WATERFOWL CHECK STATIONS
BATCHTOWN WMA	2436	1788	11	664	M					G	F	P	•	YES
Cockrel Hollow AA					M	1	M							
CALHOUN POINT WMA	2215	322	154	1739	I/L	1				F	G	P		YES
Pohlman Slough AA					•	L	2							
Royal Landing AA					•	M	1	M						
DIAMOND ISLAND WMA	657	292	36	329						G	G	P		YES
FULLER LAKE WMA	1088	347	181	560		L	1		•	G	F	F		
Hadley Landing AA					•	I	1	I						
GLADES WMA/AA	1591	328	65	1198	•	I	2	I		G	G	P		YES
GODAR WMA/AA	1027	327	201	499	•	I	1	I			G	P	•	
HELMBOLD SLOUGH WMA	729	59	0	672						G	G	P		
HURRICANE ISLAND WMA	397	58	18	321						G	G	P		YES
MICHAEL WMA/AA	536	75	90	371		I	2	I		G	F	P		YES
PIASA ISLAND WMA/AA	400			400	•	M	1	M		F	P	P		
RED'S LANDING WMA/AA	737	246	182	309	•	M/L	2	M	•	F	G	F		
RIPRAP LANDING WMA/AA	1232	200	173	859	•	M/L	2	M	•	F	G	F		
STUMP LAKE WMA/AA	3580	1181	413	1986	•	L	3		•	G	G	P	•	YES
Dabbs Road AA						L	1							
12-MILE ISLAND WMA	223	6		217						F	G	P		YES



In 1944, Congress approved the Flood Control Act, which authorized the development of recreational facilities on public access areas. The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1946 provided for establishment of a general plan and cooperative agreement to use the navigation channel project lands and waters for fish and wildlife conservation and management.

The majority of MRA lands and waters are referred to as general plan lands, under management by the State of Illinois in accordance with a 1961 general plan and 1963 cooperative agreement with the Department of the Interior. These lands are managed as fish and wildlife areas, while day use and access are under separate lease agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Hunting

Most of the areas within the MRA are specifically managed for waterfowl, with 350 blind sites allocated by public drawing for three-year periods. Five waterfowl check stations are operated on the more intensively-used areas.

Forest game hunting is popular in most areas. Upland game is available, but not productive, due to annual flooding of the areas.



Fishing

Anglers are welcome, but certain areas are restricted during waterfowl season. These areas are clearly posted each year.



Mississippi River State Fish & Wildlife Area

R.R. 1, Box 182

Grafton, IL 62037, 618-376-3303

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities.
- We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Public Services, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, call (217) 782-7454 or visit its website at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs' Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Deaf and hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number 1-800-526-0844

Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Joel Brunsvold
Director

Participation in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, 524 S. 2nd, Springfield, IL 62701-1787; (217) 785-0067; TTY (217) 782-9175.