

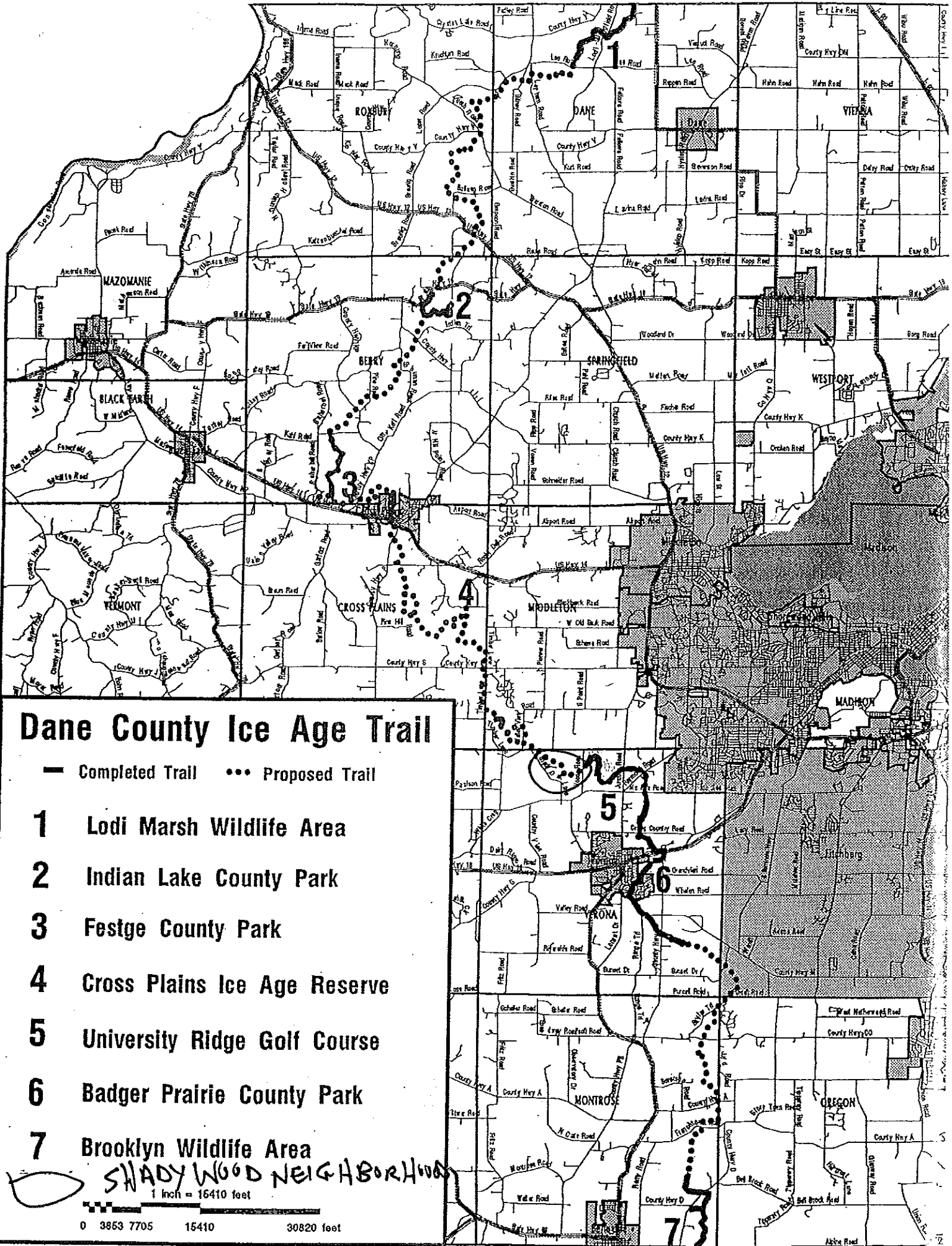
GEOLOGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SHADY WOOD SECTION OF THE ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

- **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** and **Ice Age National Scientific Reserve** are complementary components of only two areas of the **National Park System** that preserve, interpret, and provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy the landscapes created by the continental glaciations of the Ice Age – the Pleistocene Epoch. They were established by Congress in 1980 and 1971 respectively and are cooperatively administered by the National Park Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** is mapped for over 1000 miles along the terminal moraines of the most recent Wisconsinan Glaciation from Potawatomi State Park in Door County to Interstate Park in Polk County.
- **Ice Age National Scientific Reserve** consists of 9 units preserving high quality examples of various glacial depositional and erosional features throughout Wisconsin. One of the nine units – the **Cross Plains Ice Age National Scientific Reserve** – is located in Dane County about 6 miles northwest of the Shady Wood Neighborhood Planning Area.
- Professor Robert Black's 1974 study *Geology of Ice Age National Scientific Reserve of Wisconsin* recommended **two sites** in Dane County for preservation as part of the **Ice Age National Scientific Reserve**: the Town of Cross Plains site and the **eastern half of the Shady Wood Neighborhood** centered on County Hwy PD, Woods Road, and Shady Oak Lane (page 74).
- Both of the Dane County sites provide a sharp contrast between the landscape of the three-fourths of Wisconsin that was glaciated and the southwestern unglaciated "Driftless Area" but Professor Black noted that the "**Shady Wood**" site "contains a representative portion of the terminal moraine breached by a drainageway that followed a preglacial bedrock valley, kettle ponds, and an outwash apron." (page 78) He also notes that the "ice left a prominent, but not thick, moraine with steep outer face, and small kettles in the drift behind the front. Relief of the kettles is only a few feet. The steep outer face of the moraine rises 100 feet above the bedrock spurs on which it fronts ..." (page 90)
- The combination of a very prominent morainal ridge, a broad outwash plain, and kettle ponds in the moraine is unusual in Dane County. More often the moraines are broad rounded ridges or not very tall ripples in the landscape. Kettle ponds are found in only several areas of the moraine in Dane County.
- Richardson's Cave is a similarly unusual feature that adds to the special geologic quality of the **Shady Wood Neighborhood**. This manifestation of a limestone bedrock karst landscape provides a dramatic example of the contrast between the glaciated and unglaciated landscapes of southern Wisconsin.

- The significance and quality of the suite of features and the landscapes sketched above are the reason that the **National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Dane County** all **adopted** a broad preservation corridor for the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** in the area between Woods Road and Midtown Road **in 1991**.
- The **Shady Wood Neighborhood Plan** as proposed by the Madison Planning Department recognizes the significance of the geologic features in this area as documented by Professor Robert Black and manifests the benefits of preserving them along this section of the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** for the residents of Madison, Verona, and Dane County and for those who will use the Ice Age Trail.
- The Madison Board of Park Commissioners has the happy opportunity to help create another nationally significant natural area park in partnership with the **National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Dane County Parks** along the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** by **recommending adoption of the Shady Wood Neighborhood Plan** as proposed by the Madison Planning Department. Implementing the Neighborhood Plan as proposed will add another jewel to the crown of Madison's Park System.

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Dane County Ice Age Trail

— Completed Trail ... Proposed Trail

- 1** Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area
- 2** Indian Lake County Park
- 3** Festge County Park
- 4** Cross Plains Ice Age Reserve
- 5** University Ridge Golf Course
- 6** Badger Prairie County Park
- 7** Brooklyn Wildlife Area

SHADY WOOD NEIGHBORHOOD
 1 inch = 16410 feet

0 3853 7705 15410 30820 feet

GEOLOGY
OF
ICE AGE
NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESERVE
OF
WISCONSIN

Robert F. Black

University of Connecticut
Storrs

*National Park Service
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