Complete the questions below as you complete the Data Processing Section of the ***Lab Exercise Instructions***.

1. Open the Excel file named “Oak Point Forest Sampling 10312019” and click on the “Metadata” tab. What is metadata and why is it important?
2. What data do you have in this data file? How do these data relate to tree density and forest basal area?
3. How do we need to process the data in the Excel spreadsheet to get the data we want: tree density / hectare and forest basal area m2 / hectare?
4. Restate your hypothesis from your pre-lab exercise. Based on our discussion of ecological succession, how to you predict tree densities and forest basal area will differ between the old growth, primary forest areas and new growth forest, secondary forest areas in Oak Point Preserve?
5. Copy and paste the **two** graphs comparing ***Forest Basal Area*** and ***Forest Tree Density*** between old growth (primary) and new growth (secondary) forest that you made in Excel in the space below. Make sure that you provide ***figure captions*** and that your axes are properly labeled. ***(NOTE: To add figure captions, right click on the graph after you copy and paste it into this file. Select “Insert Caption” from the dropdown menu. Type an appropriate caption and click “OK.”)***
6. Summarize what the data say about tree densities and forest basal in these two forest types?
7. Do the data support your predictions in question #4?
8. Has the forest that has been re-growing since 1995 reached the “Climax” community phase of succession? How do you know?
9. Are there any forest management considerations or recommendations that you can make based on the tree density and forest basal areas that you have?