

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class/Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity 1.1 Biodiversity in My Neighborhood

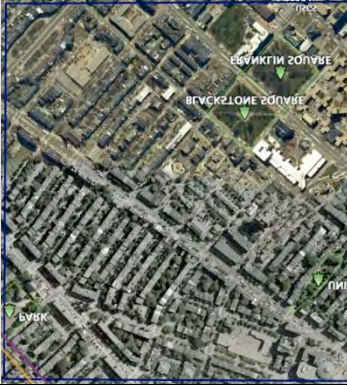
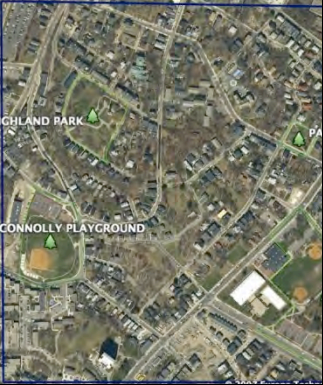

In your previous classes you may have heard the term *biodiversity*. What does the term biodiversity mean to you? In the space below, describe what you think “biodiversity” is:

*I think BIODIVERSITY means:*

Why is biodiversity important in your neighborhood?

*Biodiversity is important because:*

There are several ways to determine the biodiversity of a particular area. Before we examine how ecologists numerically measure biodiversity, let’s first examine three different locations in the city of Boston. These three sites are located along a transect. A transect is a way of sampling an area along a line. This line can be a road, a river or an actual line drawn on a map. In this case we chose three locations along the MBTA’s Orange subway line.

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
<p>1. Describe this habitat. What does it look like? (buildings, open space, trees, etc.)</p>			
<p>2. Describe how the habitat influences the bio-diversity of the area. Would each site have low or high levels of biodiversity ?</p>			

2. Comparing the three sites, which site would you expect to have the highest bird biodiversity? Write a scientific argument where you provide your evidence and reasoning for why you selected that site and not either of the other two sites