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Extra Credit #1

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If I were to choose another one of Donald Meinig’s ways to describe what I learned in Ozayr Saloojee’s presentation about Duluth, it would be the lens of Landscape as Wealth. I choose this lens because throughout Saloojee’s presentation, he purveyed that they collective wealth of Duluth has been very dynamic over time, ranging from of the richest in the country to impoverishment. In particular, the change in wealth attributed to Duluth over time was and is strongly attributed to the landscape of Duluth and the surrounding areas, notably the Mesabi iron range. The iron range, discovered in the late 1800’s, is a massive deposit of iron north of Duluth. As iron is a valuable material to mankind, the value and wealth associated to the iron range and surrounding areas skyrocketed at that time. As mining operations began to appear in the region, Duluth had something of great value to the iron industry, being its viability to be a port for shipment of iron ore across the great lakes. This possibility was realized and great wealth poured into the city, transforming it into one of the richest cities in the US at the time. However, over time as the high grade iron ore deposits dried up in the 20th century, the iron industry in the city eventually collapsed. As the area’s economy was greatly dependent on iron, so the collapse of the industry sent the region into impoverishment, collectively showing the notion of landscape as wealth. Fast forward to the 2000’s and again the wealth of the city, again due to the landscape, began to change. The first factor attributed to this change is the revitalization of the iron industry in Northern Minnesota (mining low grade iron ore), which began to bring wealth back to the region. Another factor, mainly attributed to Duluth, is a change of the city towards being a tourist destination, which also helped to bring in more wealth. Duluth becoming a tourist destination relates to landscape as wealth because Duluth is valued as a tourist destination mostly because of its scenic and historic landscape, especially due to aspects like Canal Park and proximity to Lake Superior, which brings in money an value to the region.