



Image credit: NASA

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Patterns

Humanity's relationship with nature is on full display in this Mystery City image from November 27, 2017.

Long, straight roads subdivide the landscape and provide default boundaries for farm fields, each color-coded according to crop. The distinctively artificial layout of an airport leaps out against the rural patchwork, while the densely packed commercial districts and residential neighborhoods of a small city, fed by a system of interstate highways, eventually displace the crops entirely.

Rendered nearly invisible within this maze of manmade elements are multiple rivers, among the few natural surface features evident in this image. Meandering unassumingly throughout the heavily-altered landscape, they find the shortest downhill course on their way to the next body of water with a precision greater than any runway.

Want to visit? This city on the Red River of the North provides the setting for a cult-classic film filled with quirky local characters.