

Champion Tree International Project

Visitors to Cherry Capital Airport's new airline terminal facility will see first hand the level of importance that northern Michigan's natural landscape has played in the design of the facility and its surrounding acres. Upon arrival to the facility, visitors travel through acres of pine and hardwood trees. Tree forests – allowing for an integration of the region's assets into the state-of-the-art facility flank the new airline terminal. Taking this natural element one step closer to the new terminal, the Northwestern Regional Airport Commission has partnered with Champion Tree Project International to showcase the importance of greenery to community projects like the new airline terminal facility.

Cherry Capital Airport's New Airline Terminal Complex will showcase, for one year, the oldest living "thing" on earth – the World Champion Methuselah Tree, a Bristol Cone Pine Tree. The display will be the first public showing of the world's first seedling from the world's oldest tree. The tree is expected to travel internationally after its first year of public display in Cherry Capital Airport's state-of-the-art Terminal Complex.

The New Terminal Complex will also become home to a National Champion Norway Maple Tree. The Champion Tree Project continues its mission "to preserve a piece of the past to build for the next generation" with this planting in northwest Michigan. It is just one of several hundred examples showcasing the importance forest sustainability within an urban setting.

The Champion Tree Project has its roots in northern Michigan. In 1996 David and Jared Milarch of Copemish, Michigan began a quest to clone the nation's "champion" trees – those known to be the largest of their species, and often the oldest. The Milarch family visited every corner of the nation, snipping buds and stems from about 90 of 867 registered champion trees and sent them to nurseries and laboratories for cloning. Later the team began large-scale plantings of the cloned trees in multiple urban settings. The Project has received accolades and media attention from every corner of the globe. "We are delighted to be able to bring this vital part of our sustainable forest to our community", stated Airport Director, Steve Cassens. The new Cherry Capital Airport Terminal Complex will continue to showcase community assets like the Methuselah Bristol Cone Pine Tree and Norway Maple Tree planting, just as it has done in its design elements and landscaped surroundings.

The new Terminal Complex will open to the public on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at 6:00 a.m. The new Cherry Capital Airport Terminal Complex is located on South Airport Road, between South Garfield Avenue and Three Mile Road in Traverse City, Michigan. More information regarding Cherry Capital Airport can be found by visiting www.tvcairport.com . For more information on International Champion Tree Project, the Methuselah Tree, and other oldest living trees visit www.championtreeproject.org