

State-of-the-Art Airline Terminal Complex

The Northwestern Regional Airport Commission opened the doors of the new airline terminal complex to the traveling public for the first time at 6:00 a.m. on October 27, 2004.

The debt free, \$54 million project began some ten years ago with the research and design phases. Actual construction started in November of 2001. The new Cherry Capital Airline Terminal Complex is approximately 115,000 square feet and incorporates the flavors of northern Michigan in its design and landscaping features - not to mention its state-of-the-art security systems.

With direct flights offered by Northwest Airlines, Northwest Airlink, Delta, United Express or American Eagle to Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis and seasonally to New York, Cherry Capital connects travelers to over 750 domestic and international destinations both conveniently and economically.

Visitors to the new airline terminal complex will find close parking, electronic check-in computers, advanced baggage screening, and an outdoor garden for ticketed passengers. For those passengers who are dropped off, there is a weather resistant canopy entrance. Once inside the terminal complex, passengers may take their ticket to one of fourteen cherry wood counters in the east sunlit hall and check-in with the airline of choice. Or passengers may bypass the line, swipe a credit card at an electronic check-in computer, print out a boarding pass and be on their way. Cherry Capital is only the ninth airport in the United States to employ the Baggage 5500 – the most advanced, efficient, and effective system available. The Airline Terminal Complex also features a state-of-the-art security tracking system and will soon incorporate one of the first biometrics access systems in the country.

Designed by Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida, the terminal is Arts and Crafts/Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired and encompasses the openness and natural setting of the Grand Traverse Region. Visitors to the new terminal complex will find a welcome area reminiscent of a north woods lodge, complete with a glowing stone fireplace – a perfect destination to welcome friends and frequent fliers to the Traverse City region. Throughout the terminal, visitors will find cherry wood, copper light fixtures, stone wainscoting, and stained glass in the famous Frank Lloyd Wright style.

An infusion of Arts and Crafts/Frank Lloyd Wright elements and northern Michigan artisan style is apparent in both the Ladies and Men's restroom facilities.

Brightly colored ceramic tiles reminiscent of Wright are the backdrop to the facilities. From entry to wash station back splash, each facility is complemented by an eye level row of hand painted tiles showcasing our Great Lakes Region while depicting both Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties. Attention to detail makes the terminal a Northern Michigan treat and pleasure to use.

All airport visitors are welcome to explore the gift shop and vending area in the front of the terminal. The gift shop will feature not only travel necessities, but also gifts with a flavor of northern Michigan. Arrival and departure flat-screens are positioned nearby to check the latest flight information.

Beyond the checkpoint, a second concession area accented with multiple windows and stained glass reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts/Frank Lloyd Wright design will feature coffees and cappuccino, and other freshly prepared appetite quenchers.

Ticketed passengers can even enjoy a breath of northern Michigan fresh air. A garden area surrounded by day lilies and rhododendron features a secured outdoor patio – a refreshing option that is not often found at any other airport worldwide.

The passengers hold room features floor-to-ceiling windows covering the entire north end. Six flight desks flank the expansive room and four boarding bridges for jet service extend from the structure. A set of stairs descends to the tarmac for boarding regional airplanes. Business and leisure travelers will find wireless Internet access and private phone areas to accomplish their tasks while in the hold area.

Other travel services include rental cars and taxis on site, making certain that those visiting the Cherry Capital of the World get to where they need to go conveniently and efficiently. Passengers will find rental car purveyors Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, and National/Alamo just a step away from the baggage claim area.

The new Cherry Capital Airline Terminal Complex is the largest government based project in the Grand Traverse region without bonds or a millage attached to its construction or operation. The economic impact of Cherry Capital Airport relative to the region is said to be approximately \$200 million annually, as noted by the State of Michigan Department of Transportation.

Full filling a true northern Michigan experience with its dependable, small town atmosphere, 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