

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**City of Centralia Earns Municipal Excellence Award**

**Olympia, WA May 17, 2010 – On June 24, 2010, the City of Centralia will be honored with a Municipal Excellence Award from the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) at their Annual Conference in Vancouver.**

**The City of Centralia won the Community Service category for their China Creek Restoration program. In January of 2009, the city started the Centralia Stream Team with no funding and no membership. At their first meeting 25 individuals, attended and a team was born. The team decided that China Creek would be their focus. Looking into funding, the team began regular monthly meetings and received a \$12,500 grant from the Department of Ecology.**

**In 2009, the team removed 7860 pounds of garbage, planted 226 trees, handed out Stream Team brochures to the public, meet with the public, installed signs along China Creek, developed and promoted car wash kits and educated 870 elementary school children about China Creek and water quality. And through it all, has received excellent support and help from the citizens. 2010 is full of events and the Stream Team is looking forward to a full schedule of summer events.**

**Out of over 50 entries, Centralia's entry was one of seven projects selected to receive an Excellence Award at AWC's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Entries are judged by subject category and each category has one winner. The awards are judged by individuals outside of AWC, who are selected for their knowledge of and enthusiasm for local government.**

**Now in their 20<sup>th</sup> year, the Municipal Excellence Awards are presented to cities that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in promoting community excellence. The competition recognizes a community's achievement and encourages other cities to develop similar programs. The hard work and dedication proven in each of the projects makes a community stronger especially when the focus is on improving tomorrow.**

**"The Municipal Excellence Award demonstrates the high level of innovation and commitment to developing strong communities by city officials across the state of Washington, said AWC CEO Mike McCarty**

**AWC is proud of each of the cities that entered Municipal Excellence projects. It is that show of dedication and hard work that make Washington's cities and towns so great.**

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