

OC's Extreme Makeover

Orange County is getting a facelift, but the procedure will be more than a simple nip and tuck. The proposed Orange County Great Park will transform the barren former El Toro Marine base from toxic lunar landscape to an urban oasis, but not without a major clean-up effort.

Considered to be one of the most polluted sites in Orange County, Irvine's former military base needs to be purged of as much as 700,000 pounds of toxic waste—including chemical solvents, pesticides and jet fuel—as well as 900 acres of concrete and asphalt runways.

New York-based landscape architect Ken Smith will head up the construction of the \$401 million, 1,300-acre recreational area, and plans to incorporate a lush canyon, sports fields, a lake, an air museum and an amphitheatre. The space will dwarf both Manhattan's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, with the first phase slated to open in 2008. —*Jessica Ridenour*

DuPont's Teflon is Held to the Fire

In September, WLT reported on how the EPA and FDA are sticking it to DuPont, maker of the patent-ed Teflon coating, which has been linked to cancer and birth defects.

Under pressure from these government agencies, as well as environmental groups, DuPont and seven other companies agreed to a partial phase-out of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), the risky chemical used to make Teflon.

PFOAs are widely used in pizza boxes and microwave popcorn bags, as well as stain-resistant finishes and waterproofing materials. Full phase-out of the chemical won't happen until 2015. —*JR*