# brownfields at-a-glance

EPA-560-F-07-207
June 2007

## GRIJALVA PARK AT SANTIAGO CREEK

**City of Orange, CA**
Assessment and Cleanup Grants

## *Greening Orange County: Creating Greenspace in the City of Orange*

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| **Address:** | 368 North Prospect Avenue, Orange, CA 92867 |
| **Property Size:** | 27 acres |
| **Former Use:** | Landfill site |
| **Current Use:** | Grijalva Park at Santiago Creek |

| **EPA Grant Recipient:** | **Project Partners:** |
|---|---|
| The City of Orange received a $200,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2001 and a $200,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant in 2006 | Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Community Foundation of Orange, Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance |




For additional data and geographic information for this and other Brownfields Grants, please visit EPA's:
**Envirofacts** - www.epa.gov/enviro/html/bms/bms_query.html
**Enviromapper** - www.epa.gov/enviro/bf

### Project Background:

The City of Orange is located in central Orange County, approximately 32 miles from Los Angeles. With little new park development over the past 15 years, the city was in need of open space; it also had no indoor recreational areas, no community center and only one community pool for a population of 135,000. In 2001, the city received a $200,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant to assess closed landfills on a former railroad site with the intention that open space and parks could be developed there and on the adjacent property. While the landfills were not municipal landfills, they were used for construction debris resulting from surface mining; additionally, they had been closed for 40 years. The Phase II assessment of the landfills revealed lead contamination; however, it did not indicate the presence of methane gas – a common byproduct of landfills. To address the lead contamination, the city received a $200,000 EPA Cleanup Grant in 2006. As assessments were being conducted on the landfill sites, the first part of Grijalva Park at Santiago Creek was built on the nearby property in a separate effort.

### Key Accomplishments:

- Completed Phase I assessments at two landfills and a Phase II assessment that revealed lead contamination. While no methane was discovered in six months of testing, at the request of OCHCA, the city will continue to monitor for methane gas for several years.
- Constructed a five-acre soil monocover (cap) over the landfill, successfully capping the lead contamination and preventing any migration; this was conducted in less than six months.
- Leveraged $800,000 in private donations, $3.9 million from State Proposition 40 Park Grants and $4.6 in developer commitments; $1 million of which went to design and technical studies for the gymnasium, the remaining funds will be spent on construction.
- Provided an opportunity for the creation of 42 acres of needed greenspace.



*This 5-acre cap in the City of Orange was constructed over a former landfill to make way for greenspace, parking and planned development at Grijalva Park.*

### Outcome:

With regulatory approval from OCHCA, RWQCB and support from the two community groups, the City of Orange used its Cleanup Grant to plan and construct a soil monocover over a portion of the Grijalva Park site. EPA Cleanup funds were granted in early 2006 and the city completed construction of the cap in October of that year. The cap covers the former landfill, containing the contamination and preventing leaching into Santiago Creek. The five-acre capped area of the landfill property (which totals 27 acres) will be used for a portion of a 25,000 square-foot gymnasium and accompanying parking lot. Additional construction on the entire Grijalva Park site includes a 50,000 square-foot aquatic center, a skate park, a community center and open space. Construction will begin in September 2007.