Learning Together: Altadena Residents Explore Soil & Site Recovery



On September 19, about 25 community members gathered in Altadena for a post-fire soil recovery workshop, a hands-on opportunity to learn about restoring residential landscapes and rebuilding healthier soils. The workshop focused on practical approaches to post-fire site assessment, soil testing, remediation, and long-term landscape recovery.

Participants explored the power of mushrooms and fungi in supporting soil health, learned how to properly collect soil samples, and asked questions about potential contamination in fruit trees, gardens, and other residential landscapes. Just as importantly, the workshop created space for residents to share experiences, exchange resources, and learn from one another as they navigate the many questions that come with post-fire recovery.



“I’ve been reading a lot about this topic, but it’s so helpful to see it in real time and understand the direct application of some of these practices.”
-Brian Jaecker-Jones, Altadena Resident



The event was hosted by Resilient Palisades, Eaton Fire Residents United, and the Centre for Applied Ecological Remediation (CAER), all members of the Fire-Resilient Bioremediation and Landscape Recovery Consortium. Partners from Full Circle Compost and Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles also attended to support the community.

For residents rebuilding after wildfire, recovery involves much more than rebuilding structures. It also means understanding what has happened to the soil, landscape, water, and ecosystems around our homes, and figuring out what steps can help restore them safely and sustainably. One of the clearest takeaways from the workshop was that communities need more support and

more opportunities to learn together. As residents continue navigating soil testing, contamination concerns, landscape restoration, and long-term recovery, accessible spaces for shared learning and connection can help turn complex information into practical next steps. We're grateful to everyone who came out, asked questions, shared resources, and helped make the workshop a community learning experience and we look forward to creating more opportunities like this across fire-affected communities in Los Angeles.



Thank you to the California Community Foundation for generously supporting this event and making this community learning opportunity possible.