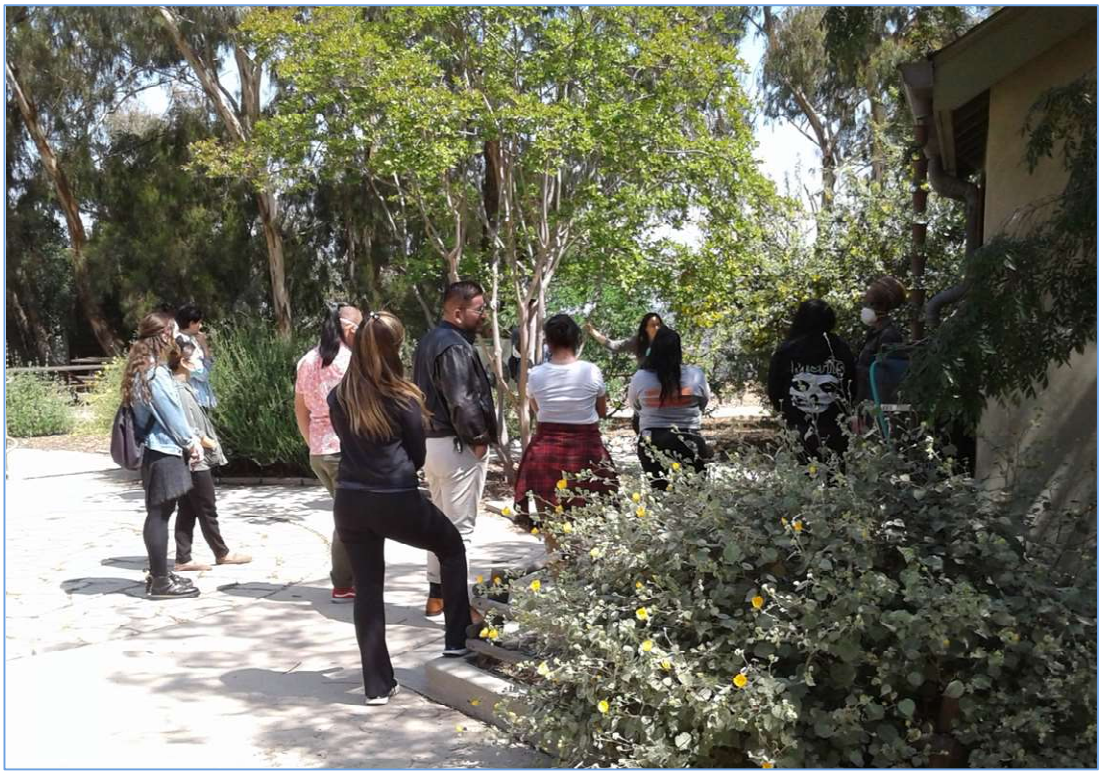
Training Event Summary

Event: WaterTalks Training #1 - Water in LA - an Overview

Intended Audience	WaterTalks CBOs and guests	**Date and Time**	2022.04.01 12pm - 2:30pm
Producer / Facilitator	TreePeople	**Event Format**	In person
IRWM Region	Greater LA County	**Number of Participants**	25

Event Summary:
This event launched a 9-part training session for WaterTalks CBOs in the Greater LA County area. Session #1 focused on 1) understanding a watershed; 2) the hydrologic cycle; 3) the path of water through the urban environment and 4) solutions to reduce stormwater pollution. The training was held at TreePeople Center, and included a tour of the LaKretz Urban Watershed Garden. See the infographic created for this event on the following page.



Participants tour the LaKretz Urban Watershed Garden

OUTSIDE WATER

TreePeople

WATER talks

1. LOCAL MOUNTAIN WATERSHED

We all live in a watershed—the land that channels water from higher to lower areas. Here in Los Angeles, rainwater and snowmelt make their way toward the Pacific Ocean.

2. DEBRIS BASINS AND DAMS

As an element of the County flood control system, debris basins capture sediment, gravel, boulders and vegetative debris that are washed out of the mountain canyons during storms. Dams retain water in a reservoir that can be released downstream back into the river or diverted to spreading grounds. Spreading grounds allow water to percolate into the ground and recharge aquifers—underground water basins.

3. GROUNDWATER BASINS

Underground reserves of water are called aquifers or groundwater basins. In Los Angeles County we get about ⅓ of our drinking water from groundwater basins. It varies city to city. The goal is to get more water into groundwater basins and reduce our reliance on imported water.

4. URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Paved areas prevent rainwater from seeping into the ground. Water flowing over these surfaces (deemed "urban runoff") picks up trash and other pollutants and eventually ends up in rivers and the ocean. Paved surfaces also contribute to local flooding issues. The goal is to create "green" infrastructure that slows, captures and cleans rain water.

5. HOMES

Our homes are small watersheds that direct rainwater into the street and generate runoff. Fertilizers, motor oil, and brake pad residue from our yards and driveways pollute this water. Dry weather runoff—water from sprinklers and hoses—is more toxic given lower water volume flow. The goal is to create more home retrofits that help divert water into rain tanks or landscaping before it reaches the street.

6. STREETS

Streets move water from our driveways into gutters and catch basins. At the catch basin, water then enters municipal underground storm drains into a vast channelized system that sends water into our rivers and ocean (uncleaned). The goal is to capture and treat water upstream to reduce pollutants that get carried to the ocean.

7. OCEAN

When it rains one inch in the County of Los Angeles, billions of gallons of polluted water are sent to the ocean.

GOOD TO KNOW

There are 6 major watersheds in Los Angeles County which are primarily served by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

The Flood Control District manages 14 dams and reservoirs, 162 debris basins, and 26 spreading grounds.

The stormdrain systems are maintained by Flood Control District, Cities, Caltrans and other agencies.