

The Soil Profile

Surface Litter
leaves, branches,
animal scats &
bodies, mushrooms
other rotting matter

**Topsoil Layer
(or humus)**
rotting organic
matter from litter
layer and
minerals from
weathering rocks

Subsoil
crumbling rock,
sand, clay, gravel
and silt

**Parent
Material**
actual bedrock
underlying the
soil layers

