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From the Los Angeles Times

Maria Shriver says edible garden will be planted in Capitol Park flower bed

Taking a page from First Lady Michelle Obama, California's first lady says a public edible garden will be planted in Capitol Park in May. Any crops will probably go to a food bank.
By Mary MacVean

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Just days after First Lady Michelle Obama broke ground for a vegetable garden on the White House lawn, California's first lady announced that Sacramento is getting a public edible garden too.

Maria Shriver announced Monday that a garden will be planted in May in a flower bed on the east end of Capitol Park in Sacramento.

"This new garden will bring awareness to children, students and visitors about the important role of food, where it comes from, nutritional value, how it is grown and harvested and ultimately how it reaches the tables of those who need it most," she said in a statement.

Shriver said she will get help from state Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura, the [California School Garden Network](#) and chef Alice Waters, who has been a vocal advocate for school and public edible gardens. It hasn't been decided what crops will be planted, but the demonstration garden will be open to students and other visitors, and any crops will probably go to a food bank, said Shriver's spokesman, Francisco Castillo.

Shriver has been honorary chairwoman of the school garden network for five years, and during that time the number of gardens has doubled to 6,000, Castillo said.

"One of the first things I did as first lady of California was visit the Edible Schoolyard, Alice Waters' organic gardening and kitchen program at a public middle school in Berkeley," Shriver said.

"We applaud her efforts to bring food into the state agenda, where it belongs," said Waters, who established the [Edible Schoolyard](#) and the School Lunch Initiative at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Berkeley, home to her restaurant Chez Panisse.

Last week, Michelle Obama joined elementary school children in breaking ground for a White House vegetable garden. She joked that everyone in her family would help weed, whether they wanted to or not. She also said the garden was part of an overall campaign to increase awareness of and appreciation for local, nutritious foods.

More than 100,000 people -- Waters among them -- had signed an online petition urging the Obamas to plant a garden through a campaign called "Eat the View," organized by the group Kitchen Gardeners International. Bill and Hillary Clinton had a rooftop garden, but the last one on the lawn was a World War II victory garden.

Last summer, 4,000 plants went into the ground outside San Francisco City Hall, a temporary planting called Victory Garden 2008+, intended to promote gardens around the city.

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