

We CAN Improve our Parks!



A proposed partnership between the Novi Community School District and the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Introduction:

- Nick Weigel-Hubler
- 4th Grade Teacher at Village Oaks Elementary
- 4th Grade Science Captain
- Co-Sponsor of the NOVIroment after-school Club
- Father of two middle school students
- Avid supporter of local parks and green spaces

We CAN Improve: Background



VO is a designated Michigan Green School

- We are always on the lookout for different ways to make a positive impact on our school and Novi Community

All K-4 Grades have Life/Environmental Science Units embedded in their Curriculum

- Kindergarteners learn about animal needs
- 1st Graders learn about plants
- 4th Graders learn about healthy ecosystems and human impacts on the environment

Ah-ha Moment:

- While on a walk in Heritage Park in Farmington Hills I saw a Garbage Can which has been 'adopted' by a local Elementary School



We CAN Improve our Parks: What is it?

The goal of this project is to provide our VO Students a chance to apply what they learn about healthy environments in their local community.

- Students will become environmental ‘experts’ and report what they have learned by creating websites, slide presentations, and art installations with community members through the adoption of a Garbage Can.
- Students would decorate the adopted Cans and post QR codes which will link to the digital resources they design.
- We could also post/display links to any programs that the Parks Department would like!

Adopted Garbage Can Examples



*Courtesy of Dye County Fair



*Courtesy of St. Albert Nature School



*Courtesy of Wild Rose Elementary



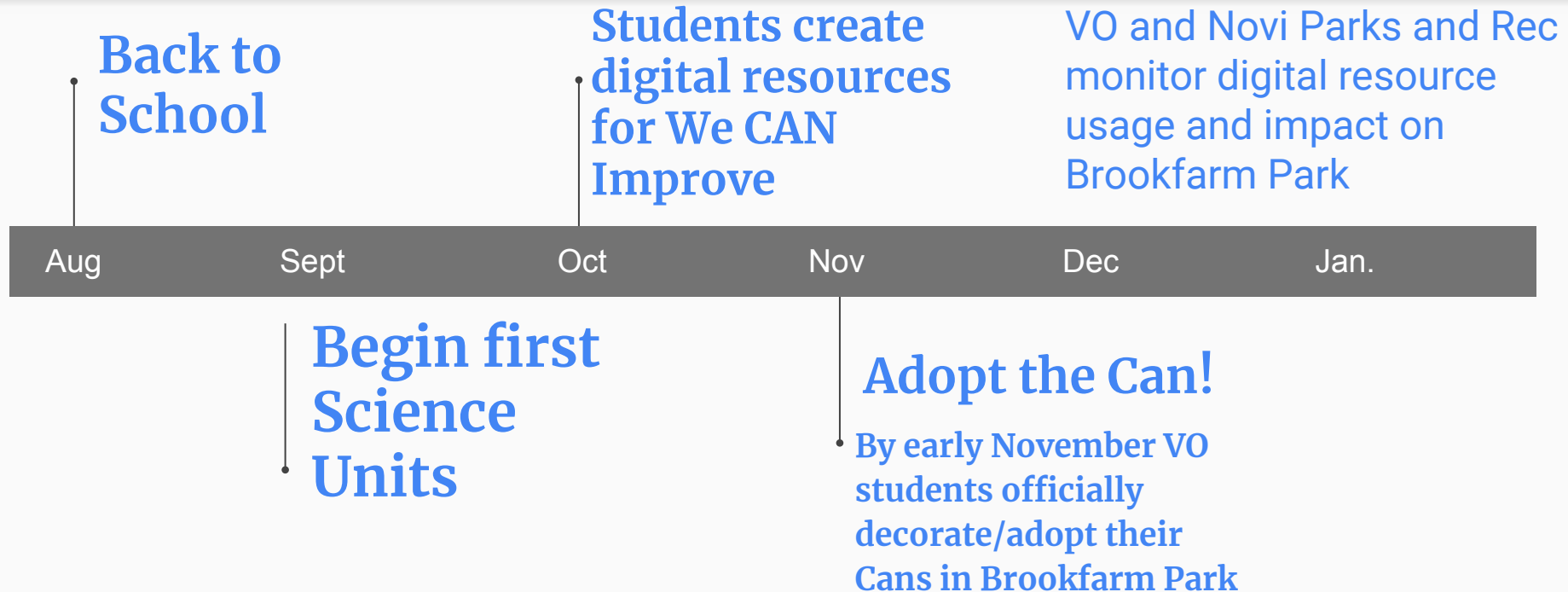
*Courtesy of Santa Monica Beachcast

We CAN Improve our Parks: Where will this initiative take place?

- We would start with VO and the neighboring Brookfarm Park.
- If successful, this project is scalable!



We CAN Improve our Parks: When will this initiative take place?



We CAN Improve our Parks– Who will be involved?



Teachers

Teach Life Science Lessons in class.

Provide Guidance and support to create digital materials for CAN.

Oversee CAN decoration.

Monitor digital resource usage throughout the initiative.



Students

Create digital and or artistic representations to display on adopted CAN.

Decorate the CAN!

Monitor the health of Brookfarm Park.



Community Members

Utilize Brookfarm Park and student-created content.

Help maintain the park ecosystem and perhaps more!



Parks and Rec Department

We CAN Improve our Parks: Questions

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Thank you so much for your time and consideration!

Contact information:

Nick Weigel-Hubler

nicholas.weigel-hubler@novik12.org

cell: (586) 899-3978

work: (248) 449-1300