

**Overland Mountain Bike Association -
2021 City of Fort Collins Mayoral & City Council Candidate Questions
Regarding Parks/Open Spaces & Non-Motorized Singletrack Trails**

1. Do you ever ride a mountain bike on our local trails? YES!
2. How often do you recreate in any way on our local trails and which trail is your favorite?

I am on the trails about three times a week. I usually go to Lory State Park because it's so close. But I use a lot of trails, including the bike trail around Fort Collins. I run, bike, walk, hike.

3. Singletrack trails and outdoor recreation in general are a major economic component of northern Colorado. OMBA envisions trail expansion as a substantial economic driver in Fort Collins, similar to the Bentonville and northwest Arkansas area. A study completed by the Walton Family Foundation & People for Bikes demonstrated that recreational trails provide an **annual** economic benefit of \$137M to that area. How do you see recreational trails impacting our local economy & what could you do to increase this value?

Honestly, trails are what make Fort Collins great. We love them. I remember when the first bike trail went in. The more trails, the better. In addition to recreation, they are excellent for commuting.

4. Youth mountain biking is exploding in popularity around the state of Colorado and across the nation, but access to mountain biking trails in Fort Collins is extremely limited for non-driving youth. Current options are limited to the more advanced Foothills Trail or riding along busy roadways, such as Taft Hill towards Loveland or CR 38E around the south end of Horsetooth, thus creating significant safety concerns for younger riders. What would you do to improve the safe access to singletrack trails for youth riders & non-driving individuals from our urban areas?

We need to build a bike centric city (and surrounding areas). I am including road bikes, race bikes, commuter bikes and mountain bikes. A priority is to make sure there is a safe, direct and attractive bikeway to each school in our city. This should be a top priority. When we encourage youth riders, we build life-time advocates and a healthy community.

5. Bike parks have become active community hubs in many cities & towns across the US & the world. The City of Boulder opened Valmont Bike Park in 2011 to rave reviews, and it is now the Gold Standard for all community bike parks. With no local options, many Fort Collins residents drive themselves and their kids to Boulder and beyond nearly every weekend for this activity. Do you see this as a local need and would you support developing a large-scale municipal bike park in Fort Collins?

As an avid biker, I am ALL in for bike parks for youth and adults.

6. Expanding on the last question...as a complement to the new Poudre Whitewater Park, a downtown area bike park designed & built to fit into the natural environment along the Poudre corridor could create an “outdoor recreation hub” to go along with all the other downtown area amenities, thus providing new opportunities for many residents & families and much improved access for several underserved audiences. Do you see this as a positive or a negative for the City of Fort Collins and why?

This is an absolute positive. How cool would that be? The whitewater park is fun for everyone, even for those who aren't in the water. It creates community and health and fun. Let's do this!

7. Singletrack trail systems in Fort Collins are seeing more use than ever, with demand growing rapidly every year. The past year's response to the Covid pandemic has given us a window into what our trails & trailheads will look like as our population growth continues, and without appropriate planning, it doesn't look good. It has also shown how critical trails and outdoor recreation are to the health & well-being of our residents. What will you do as a Fort Collins Mayor/City Council member to address these overcrowding issues and expand access on City singletrack trails such as Maxwell/Foothills, Coyote Ridge & Bobcat Ridge? How should the City responsibly expand access to City trails for all residents?

Overcrowding and population pressure is a real issue. We should develop more trails, but we will need to maintain them, and I acknowledge all the volunteer work that goes into maintenance now. We also have to be mindful of how we share the space with hikers and runners. Most of our trails are in the county, so we will need to partner with our county commissioners to plan this.

8. Fort Collins has been a leader in developing a robust, interconnected paved trail system throughout our urban areas. One glaring gap, however, is the lack of connectivity to open space trails on the west side of town such as Lory State Park, Horsetooth Mountain and Coyote Ridge, where the vast majority of trail users are forced to drive to already overcrowded parking areas. OMBA's Trails Vision Plan supports the development of new multi-use singletrack trails around the south side of Horsetooth, the north side of Horsetooth, and between Cathy Fromme & Coyote Ridge to create a fully connected trail system encircling the reservoir. What benefits do you see with this interconnected system, and would you support collaborating with Larimer County and other agencies on this project? Why or why not?

Connectivity of trails is critical for their use. I used to live in Denmark, and all trails were connected. That is why so many people rode their bikes—they could actually get somewhere! Also, with connectivity, we can ride to the trails instead of drive to them. I'd love to partner with the county on this!

9. “People don't need trails, the land does.” Conservationists and Recreationists agree that thoughtfully planned, constructed and maintained trails better conserve the land and environment while providing a better experience for users. Mountain bikers tend to be the most engaged of all trail users when it comes to the quality of trails meeting expectations. Mountain bikers also tend to show up in large numbers to provide input for

management plans/decisions as well as on-the-ground work. With tens of thousands of mountain bikers residing in Fort Collins and the real potential of significant budget issues over the next several years, what role do you see volunteers playing in regard to trail building, maintenance & patrol assistance on City of Fort Collins singletrack trails?

I know how engaged and active the mountain bikers are and I am very appreciative. Volunteers will continue to play a large role in the creation, maintenance and patrol assistance. But, the city and county should also be funding trails because we are residents who pay taxes and we deserve to have our priorities funded, too.

Thanks for all you do!! I can't wait to get out there soon!

Jeni