

**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?
  - No, but only because I'm worried for the state of my bones. It looks very fun.
2. How often do you recreate in any way on our local trails and which trail is your favorite?
  - I hike or walk our local trails a couple times a month, depending on weather and trail conditions. We love Cathy Fromme, but also enjoy exploring areas like Horsetooth, Lory State Park and Coyote Ridge.
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?
  - What a great vision! I applaud OMBA for pursuing this idea. Colorado is a leader in outdoor recreation and I like the idea of expanding trails to strengthen our economy. I would advocate for the city to pursue this as an economic development strategy and to partner with the county and the state to make it happen.
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?
  - I would urge the city to work closely with the county to provide more connections between trails and parks, which would provide more access for riders of all ages. This is also important for reducing emissions and meeting our climate action goals.
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?
  - Valmont Bike Park looks like an amazing place! I would love to see a park like that in Fort Collins and would support its creation so that our residents don't have to drive to

Boulder. Depending on what happens with the Hughes Stadium site, I wonder about the possibility of using part of that space for a bike park. Valmont is 42 acres and the Hughes site is 161 acres.

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?
  - I see a lack of amenities for residents in north Fort Collins, so there is a definite opportunity for improvement. A bike park could be a great complement to the Whitewater Park and seems like a positive for both residents and visitors.
  
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?
  - Planning is essential to deal with overcrowding and expand access. I would advocate for ongoing improvements and expansions to our trails, especially by connecting already existing but separate trails.
  
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?
  - Again, what a great vision! I support the idea of creating a fully connected trail system as a way to improve safety and access, while reducing the need to drive. Collaborating with county, state, and federal agencies is the way to both get things done more efficiently and tap into funding opportunities.
  
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?

- Thank you for all the OMBA volunteers have done to build, maintain, and patrol area trails. There are always more tasks to do and costs to bear than resources available, so I'm glad to see the OMBA has been such an active partner with local, state, and federal agencies. OMBA volunteers will continue to be important to maintaining and improving our trails for years to come as we cope with resource limitations.