

**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, I do, but not as frequently as I should or as I want to. I'm a fair weather bicyclist and hope to get out on my bike more with spring approaching. I have, however, spent decades protecting open spaces and natural areas upon which the trails are constructed. I have been a leader in eight open space campaigns that have protected over 75,000 acres. Most of your favorite trails are located on these lands. For these efforts that I started in the early 1980's, I have received a number of awards including the prestigious national E-Town Award. I continue this work by currently serving on the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board. I hope to get on the trails more—it's one of my personal goals. Say hello if you see me.

2. How often do you recreate in any way on our local trails and which trail is your favorite?

I enjoy riding on the Spring Creek or Poudre River Trails. The Spring Creek Trail because of easy access from my home and the Poudre River Trail because of the natural setting. I walk on trails close to my home three to four times per week (Red Fox Meadows and Spring Creek), and my favorite more distant trails are at Bobcat Ridge and Red Mountain.

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?

Local trails do provide a positive economic benefit for our local economy, to be sure. What I can do to increase that value is to continue my life's work to conserve more open spaces and natural areas (before it is too late). These conserved areas will, in turn, provide more possibilities for trails and recreation.

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 agree this is an issue that needs attention. What I would do is use my many years of effective leadership to produce positive outcomes for our youth riders and non-driving individuals. I would look to Overland Mountain Bike Association for recommendations and prioritization. Then we move to funding issues and implementation.

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?

Yes and yes. I believe there is a strong desire for a municipal bike park in Fort Collins and I would support such a facility.

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 would prefer an alternative location for the bike park that I support. I may be incorrect, but this land may be owned and managed by the Natural Areas Department, and thus, not allowed or appropriate due to its riparian habitat value. If I am incorrect on the ownership or location, feel free to ignore me. If I'm correct, I would be happy to assist in finding an acceptable location.

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?

What I will do as a City council member is to continue my life's work conserving lands for wildlife and people for their natural resource values (e.g. habitat and wildlife). By accelerating our acquisition of open spaces and natural areas so that our existing lands and trails are not severely negatively impacted by our use. More land conserved will allow for more trails. We just can't continue adding more trails to a static number of acres. They were purchased with specific funding sources and specific ballot language. Trails and recreation are very important components of our program, but not at the expense of its primary purpose. It's time for wildlife enthusiasts and mountain bike enthusiasts to come together (yes, there is overlap between the two) for more land acquisition in a timely manner that will benefit all interests and our natural environment. I'm all in—let's do it! The lands should be spread geographically as much as possible so all residents have easy access.

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?

I see many benefits to connectivity - ease of access, fewer vehicle miles traveled, and safety. I would support collaborating with Larimer County and other agencies on this project because it makes sense to do so.

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?

Volunteers are a big part of the success for the City of Fort Collins and the Fort Collins community. I suspect that involvement may increase in the coming years. When I was Mayor back in the day, during the summer, I helped build a single-track trail in the foothills. I thought I was going to die. I'll bring the liquids and snacks next time. Thanks for what you do.