

Carlie Bangs

How long have you lived in Estes Park: 9 years

Prior Experience- Career Information: Carlie has worked in informal education, child development, and programming her entire career. She has experience in before and after school care, as a preschool teacher, outdoor educator, and directing programs. She worked at YMCA of the Rockies for 6 years as the Outdoor Education Director and Associate Program Director where she developed programs and lead many young professionals. Currently, she works at Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success as the Program Assistant. There she assists families with young children and is a Parent Educator through their home visitation program. She enjoys working with families in our community by providing support and programs that enrich their lives.

Previous Participation on Town Boards or Committees: Carlie has been involved in a number of committees and boards in town focused on strengthening community and providing resources for families, most recently Families for Estes, Communities that Care, and many community conversations regarding affordable housing and childcare. Carlie joined the Town Park Advisory Board in 2015 and is currently the Co-Chair. She was actively involved in the creation of the Mountain Festival through this board.

Educational Background: Carlie has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Sociology, as well as a minor in Environmental Education from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. Throughout her studies, she focused on outdoor educational experiences for children of all ages. She was heavily involved in creating after school gardening programs and wrote curriculum for the program. Her undergraduate thesis was on teacher's use of outdoor classrooms and school gardens. Since then she has taken a few classes on Non-Profit Management from Front Range Community College.

Running for Town Trustee has been something I always saw for myself "in the future". For many years, I have been actively involved in community conversations, committees, boards, and task forces. I have heard reoccurring concerns from our citizens. Due to lack of opportunity for our workforce, it has become more and more difficult to raise a family in our beautiful town resulting in many professionals leaving our community. It is because of these conversations and the momentum right now, that I have decided to run for Town Trustee. I want to raise my children in a community that is thriving.

Individuals of all ages and demographics are vital to a prosperous, sustainable community. Our town has the resources to create a resilient community that retains these young families. Estes Park has incredibly strong assets; Rocky Mountain National Park, a rich history, strong tourist economy and downtown corridor, many non-profits, highly educated citizens, cultural diversity, and active community members. As a community, we have identified our current greatest needs and taken steps to address affordable housing, access to childcare, transportation, and expanding our workforce. I believe with strong leadership we can address the issues our town is facing by building upon existing assets.

Building community means building our identity and culture, coming together as one, and adapting to change. Positive change and growth will come from leadership that's committed to community.