

**From:** Erik Mathys <ecmdlg@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2024 9:39:40 PM

**To:** booth@coloradosun.com <booth@coloradosun.com>

**Subject:** A High Fire Risk Proposed Development in Arvada, A Short Distance from the Marshall Fire

Hello Mr. Booth,

I live on the west side of Arvada, in a subdivision called Geos, that is currently being built. It will consist of over 200 homes, and along with 2 other existing neighborhoods, is located a few hundred feet from a new proposed RV storage development. **This development will sit on top of an old unregulated dump site that regularly vents methane.** It is located immediately adjacent to the Ralston Creek and the associated greenbelt. This greenbelt is left mostly untouched to provide a habitat and migration corridor for wildlife. Because of its importance to wildlife, the corridor should be left alone. However, it also provides a vast source of fuel for a potential wildfire. Unlike the Marshall fire, which consisted mostly of grass and lower vegetation, this area represents a far greater fire risk to the community. There is a dense accumulation of uncut grasses, dead wood and very tall cottonwood trees. Had the Marshall fire occurred in this area, the devastation of homes and risk for life would have been vastly larger. We are a 10 minute drive away from the Marshall fire, and were ready to evacuate when that fire happened. Whereas the residents of Superior and Louisville could use Highway 36 to evacuate, this area's evacuation routes are far narrower and less accessible. An evaluation here would be far more difficult.

This proposed development would house 355 RV vehicles, with propane tanks, diesel, gasoline and other highly flammable fluids, and would sit on top of a known methane bubble. There is only one fire hydrant on a public street nearby. The development is at the end of a short dead-end street, with very limited maneuverability for large fire trucks. There is only one access point to the development. **Under Marshall fire conditions, this RV storage facility would act as a major accelerant of a wildfire, in a densely populated area that is difficult to evacuate.** Even under normal weather conditions, a fire in this area would be difficult to access, let alone bring under control.

The **Arvada Fire Department has great concerns about the proposed RV storage**, but the Department is unable to formally oppose it because the current regulations do not specifically address this situation. **At the City of Arvada, the application for the development is being handled as an administrative matter, overseen by city employees.** There is currently no intent to bring such a risky project in front of the Arvada City Council for oversight by elected representatives. Given the danger represented by this development to the nearby communities, the apparent lack of understanding by the City of Arvada of the fire danger, and the inability of the Arvada Fire Department to oppose the project, I hope that you will be able to give a voice to the concerns of the nearby communities of western Arvada. More information can be obtained on the following website: [frcneighborhoods.org/home/](http://frcneighborhoods.org/home/)

Thank you for your interest. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Erik Mathys