# Paper Boat Regatta Ends in Chaos as Wind Gust Capsizes Fleet

By Emily Harper

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Location: Greenlake Park, Seattle

What began as a joyful summer afternoon turned into a scene of confusion yesterday when an unexpected gust of wind disrupted the annual Greenlake Paper Boat Regatta. Dozens of hand-folded paper boats were swept away or capsized, leaving young participants in tears and parents scrambling along the shoreline.

The event, which drew over 200 families, featured a friendly race of homemade paper boats across the shallow section of Greenlake. Around 3:15 PM, just minutes after the start signal, a strong breeze picked up from the northwest, catching many boats mid-race and flipping them over.

“We weren’t prepared for wind like that,” said event organizer Jenny Coleman. “We had checked the forecast, and it showed clear skies and mild conditions.”

No injuries were reported, although one boy, age 6, was treated for a scraped knee after slipping on the wet grass. Volunteers helped retrieve the soaked boats using nets and long sticks.

Despite the mishap, many families stayed to enjoy the afternoon, turning the incident into a shared laugh. Organizers say they will consider adding wind barriers or alternative dates for future events.

“It’s a memory we’ll never forget,” said local dad Marcus Bell. “My daughter cried for five minutes and then started folding a new boat on the spot. That’s the spirit of the regatta.”