

Burial Statistics

According to the latest statistics provided by Stellenbosch Municipality, **810 people** were buried in the Stellenbosch region for the 2017/2018 financial year. This equates to about 67.5 burials per month.

Most funerals are scheduled on a weekend. With exception people are cremated, as traditional burials are the norm.

Cemeteries Service Statistics

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/2018
Gravesite locations	Number of Burials	Number of Burials	Number Of Burials
Onder Papegaaiberg	46	36	74
Jamestown	398	42	527
Pniel	20	7	15
Wemmershoek	6	5	17
Franschhoek North	116	85	161
Franschhoek South	2	6	16
Pauper Burials	0	2	0
Total	588	183	810

Table 1: (Source: Stellenbosch Municipality – Department of Community and Protection Services)

Stellenbosch Municipality is responsible for the maintenance and management of six cemeteries in the greater Stellenbosch. Currently Jamestown and Groendal cemeteries are reaching maximum capacity, whilst Wemmershoek and Franschhoek South and North are fully operational. Pniel and Onder Papegaaiberg Cemeteries are full to capacity (with only reserved graves being available at Onder Papegaaiberg).

According to the town planners, the proposed Louw's Bos public cemetery and memorial park will consist of approximately 74ha. The actual area proposed to be utilised for cemetery purposes totals to approximately 34.53ha.

The general formula for calculating traditional grave (i.e. interment) space, as set out by the Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), is determined at 2000 graves per hectare or alternatively 5m² per traditional grave, including 10% for circulation.

In the proposed Louw's Bos public cemetery and memorial park, of the approximately 34.53ha dedicated to cemetery space, approximately 19.97ha is proposed for use as traditional grave space. Using the formula provided by DEA&DP, 39 940 traditional graves may be provided for as set out below.

1. $19.97 \text{ ha} \times 2000 = 39\,940 \text{ graves}$ $39\,940/810 = \underline{\underline{49 \text{ years}}}$
2. $199\,700 / 5\text{m}^2 = 39\,940 \text{ graves}$

Calculating at an average of 810 deaths per annum (latest available statistics), 4050m² grave space per annum will be required. Therefore, over the next 30 years, about 12.15ha of land will be required. The proposed regional site should provide sufficient traditional interment space for approximately the next 49 years.

Note: An increase and decrease in mortality rates can have an impact on the life span of the cemetery.

It is proposed that the remaining 14.56ha be used for more modern trends in burial methods and will include memorial walls, lawn graves, the use of trees as headstones and memorial plaques. The number of possible burials to be accommodated within the remaining approximate 14.56ha, is undetermined.