


# Stanford Village Wandelpad

## MAP LEGEND

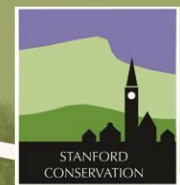
 Wandelpad/Walking Trail

 Tourism Office

- 1 Memorial Forest
- 2 The Loop
- 3 Flowering Gum Corner
- 4 Recreation Area
- 5 "The 47 Steps"
- 6 Boat Launch Area
- 7 "Wasklip"
- 8 Milkwood Grove
- 9 Historic Cemeteries
- 10 Blue Gum Loop
- 11 New Cemetery
- 12 Willem Appel Dam
- 13 Viewing Platform
- 14 Ou Krale Picnic Site
- 15 Bird Hide
- 16 Village Green



[stanfordtourism.co.za](http://stanfordtourism.co.za)



[stanfordconservation.co.za](http://stanfordconservation.co.za)



## Welcome to Stanford's Wandelpad/Walking Trail

The trail was initiated in 1993 with the establishment of the Stanford Conservation Trust. A vision for many years, it became a project in 1997 when various government grants were sourced - the initial route was completed in 1999.

The aim of Stanford Conservation is to protect and preserve Stanford's natural and architectural heritage. It has a Wandelpad Team which looks after the environmental aspects and a Heritage Committee which ensures that any new building or alterations are in keeping with the Stanford Style. A brochure, *Historical Stanford on Foot*, will assist you in a self-guided (or guided) tour through the historical core of the village.

The Wandelpad is maintained by Stanford Conservation with manpower and some equipment provided by the Working for the Coast programme. Funds are raised monthly, mainly at the Wine & Wisdom evenings or by donations. Most of the trees and benches along sections of the Wandelpad have been located in memory of someone special. There are numerous clearly marked access points to the Wandelpad. Keep your eyes open for the resident otter and your ears alert for the call of the Fish Eagle, the high-pitched screech of the African Harrier-hawk or the cry of the Blue Cranes flying west every afternoon. A list of birds to be seen in and around Stanford is available from the tourism office. All of these wonders are set against the backdrop of the majestic Klein River Mountains.

Dogs are welcome to enjoy the Wandelpad with their owners. Unfortunately the Poo Fairy does not wave her magic wand every night – so please clean up behind your dog. There are numerous bins along the path to dispose of these deposits.

In some areas you will notice invasive reed growth. Reeds play an important role in removing nutrients that leach into the river, as well as in flood control. Unfortunately, the reeds have grown unabated and spread too far landwards for them to fulfil these functions. They are also progressively closing up the river. Stanford Conservation and the Overstrand Municipality began a joint operation in 2015 to address the problem.

## MAP LEGEND

### Memorial Forest and Surrounds (1, 2 & 3)

The memorial forest was established in 2004. To date, approximately 50 trees have been planted. Recent additions are the benches for resting, or for those who want to be embraced by the scenic pastoral view. Blue Gum corner is a favourite meeting place of the dog walkers and you can choose between the 'high' road and the 'low' road!

### Recreational Area and "The 47 Steps" (4 & 5)

The grassed area between King and Quick Streets is a popular recreational area. "The 47 Steps" derived its name from the 47 steps down the embankment.

### Slipway (6)

The slipway area is used by people wishing to pursue water-based activities. All motorised boats must have a permit. These can be obtained from the tourism office (or at the gate during peak seasons).

### "Wasklip" (7)

Tucked away on a little dead-end turn-off to the river you will find a number of rocks protruding into the water. This area was used by residents to do their washing before the era of electricity and piped water ('wasklip' = 'washing rock'). It was a lovely open area where the women chatted away whilst the children swam in the river. Our resident otter often frequents this area. From the nearby junction you can choose to follow the Wandelpad up the embankment, or through the Milkwood grove and along the Mill Stream.

### Milkwood Grove (8)

The Milkwood Grove is a real fairytale forest; the gnarled trunks and branches bearing testimony to the hundreds of years these magnificent trees have been growing next to the Mill Stream. This stream was used in the 1800s to power a mill which dressed the wheat grown on the local farm. Unfortunately the mill no longer exists.



### Historic Cemeteries (9)

Apart from the historical aspect, the cemeteries on both sides of Queen Victoria Street are also a testimony to South Africa's political history. The people buried in the cemetery above the Milkwood grove are mainly from Stanford's brown community. The one to the south includes the oldest grave in the village – that of Hester Parlby who died in 1835. Hester was the wife of Samuel Parlby who owned the Kleine River Valey Farm (1831 – 1838) on which Stanford was established in 1857. Abundant bird life can be found along the Mill Stream Wandelpad section between Queen Victoria and De Bruyn Streets.

### Blue Gum Loop and 'New' Cemetery (10 & 11)

Here the path skirts the border of town, meandering past wind-breaking blue gum trees and a children's play area. You can choose to meander through the cemetery or to progress directly to De Bruyn Street.

### Willem Appel Dam (12)

The water feeding the Willem Appel Dam originates from the Stanford Eye (or spring) which for many years was the only supply of water to the town. The excess water from the spring flows into the dam, and from there either downstream via the Mill Stream, or into the many furrows seen throughout town. The dam was artificially created in the 1970s and is named after the then headmaster of Die Bron School.

### Viewing Platform and Ou Krake Picnic Area (13 & 14)

There is a viewing platform on the southern side of the dam which forms part of the Ou Krake picnic area under another grove of milkwood trees.

### Bird Hide (15)

A bird hide on the Willem Appel Dam overlooks a large variety of bird species that can be seen from either the hide or viewing platform. The hide is wheelchair-friendly and the key to the hide is available from the tourism office.

### Village Green (16)

This is one of a few market squares left in South Africa and the entire area (which includes the roads and the St Thomas Anglican church) has been proclaimed as being of provincial heritage significance.