

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

**GEODASH  
CRIME MAP**



**User Guide**

Vancouver Police Department  
2015

## 1. Introduction

The Vancouver Police Department's GeoDASH is a crime mapping tool that provides the public access to information about crimes that were reported to VPD. By providing valuable information about crime activity in neighbourhoods, citizens can be more informed and engaged in reducing crime.

GeoDASH stands for Geographic Data Analysis and Statistics Hub.

## 2. Accessing GeoDASH

GeoDASH is available on the VPD website ([www.vpd.ca](http://www.vpd.ca)).

No plug-in or special software is required or necessary to use GeoDASH.

GeoDASH is browser independent and will run using the latest version of any standard internet browser such as:

- Internet Explorer ( IE 11 and up )
- Firefox
- Chrome
- Mozilla
- Safari

GeoDASH has also been tested to be fully compatible with the following smartphone/mobile operating systems

- Android (eg. Samsung Galaxy, Nexus, etc.)
- iOS (eg. iPhone, iPad, etc.)

GeoDASH is not fully compatible with BlackBerry10 browser. Please download Chrome or another browser on a BlackBerry10 device to access all features.

The user must agree to accept the conditions of the disclaimer before crime data is displayed on the map.

### 3. GeoDASH Disclaimer Page

The disclaimer page is the first page displayed on the GeoDASH website. At the bottom of the page the user must indicate that they read and understood the disclaimer. If the user checks the box then the default crime map is displayed, otherwise, they are returned to the VPD website at [www.vpd.ca](http://www.vpd.ca).

The default crime map is the map of all crimes that occurred the previous week in all the neighbourhoods.

THE VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

**VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**GEODASH CRIME MAP**

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The GeoDash interactive mapping tool is intended to enhance community awareness of policing activity in Vancouver. Users are cautioned not to rely on the information provided to make decisions about the specific safety level of a specific location or area. By using this service the user agrees and understands that neither the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Police Board nor the City of Vancouver assumes liability for any decisions made or actions taken or not taken by the user in reliance upon any information or data provided.

While every effort has been made to be transparent in this process, users should be aware that this tool is designed to provide individuals with a general overview of incidents falling into several crime categories. The information provided therefore does

I have read and understood the [disclaimer](#) above.

**Accept**

[VPD Home](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact the VPD](#) [to top](#)

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### 4. Web Page Layout

The screenshot shows the GeoDASH web application interface. On the left, a sidebar displays search results for 'Other Theft' incidents, including occurrence dates and locations. The main area is a map of Vancouver with various colored markers representing incidents. A callout box for a specific marker shows details like 'Other Theft' on '2015/11/25' at '22XX YORK AVE, VAN'. The interface includes a search bar at the top, a 'Zoom' control, a 'Street Map' toggle, and a 'Tools' menu. At the bottom, there are controls for 'Display Incidents', 'Scale', 'Show Chart', and 'Marker'.

**Zoom**  
Zoom in (+) and out (-)

**I want to ..**  
Displays the options that are available.

**Street Map**  
Toggles between Street Map and Street Map Imagery

**Tools**  
Displays mapping, drawing and measuring tools.

**Results**  
Displays the result of the search .

**Display Incidents**  
Displays details of the incident .

**Scale**  
Shows the scale of the map.

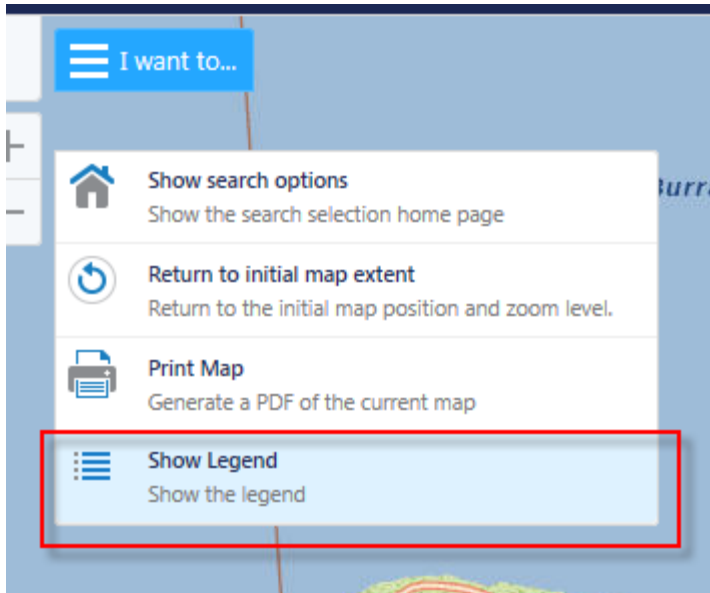
**Show Chart**  
Displays the chart with an option to display historic trends











**Marker**  
Click an incident marker to see more details about the crime.

**Search for Occurrences**  
Displays the Search Options

## 5. General Symbology

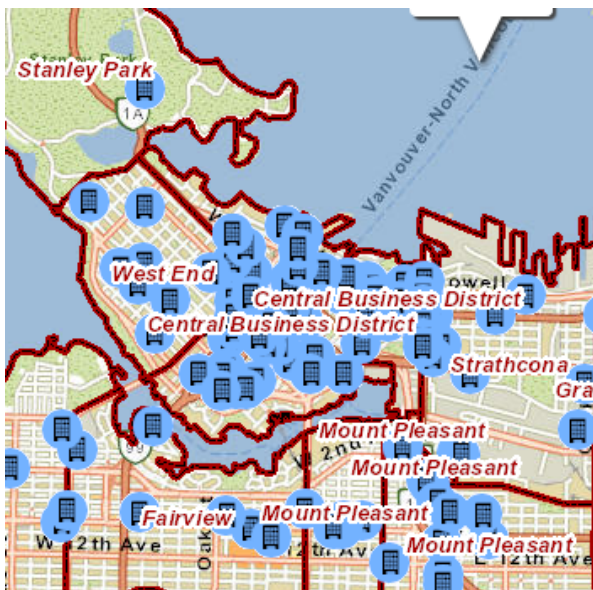
GeoDASH uses different symbols on the map. To find out the meaning of these symbols, click **Show Legend**.



- ☐ **Public Crime Incidents**
- ☐ **Crime Incident**
-  BNE Commercial
  -  BNE Residential/Other
  -  Homicide
  -  Mischief (eg. graffiti)
  -  Offence Against a Person
  -  Other Theft (eg. bicycle, personal item)
  -  Theft from Vehicle
  -  Theft of Vehicle
  -  Neighbourhood Boundary
  -  Neighbourhood

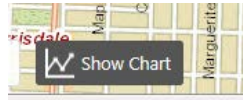
## 6. Map Overview

- **Zoom** in and out by clicking + or -. Or using a mouse wheel.
- **Scale**  
As you zoom in (+) and out (-) of the map, the scale is displayed at the bottom.
- **Views**  
In the upper right corner of the map, toggle between StreetMap and StreetMap Imagery.
- **Clustering of Icons**  
If two crimes occur near each other, when you zoom out those incident icons will overlap at some point. When the two symbols overlap it is difficult to tell that there are two crimes in that area.

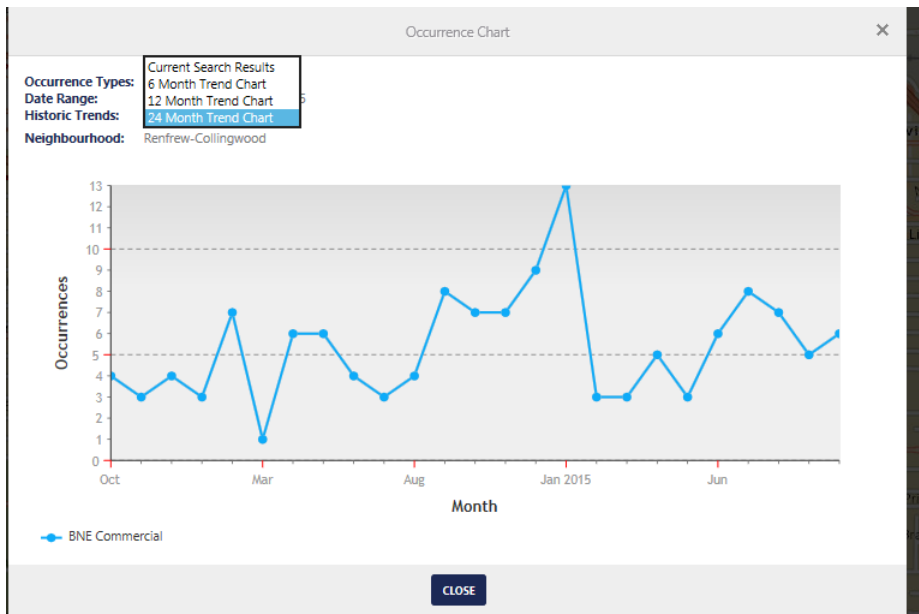
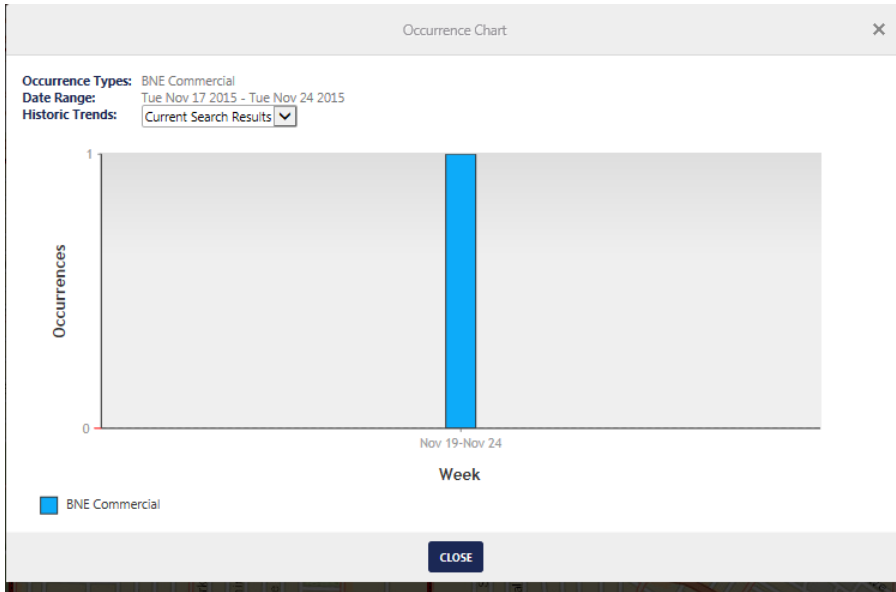


## 7. Chart (this feature is not available on mobile devices)

Click the *Show Chart* icon to display the chart for the current search result.



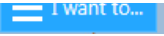
icon to display the chart for the current search result.

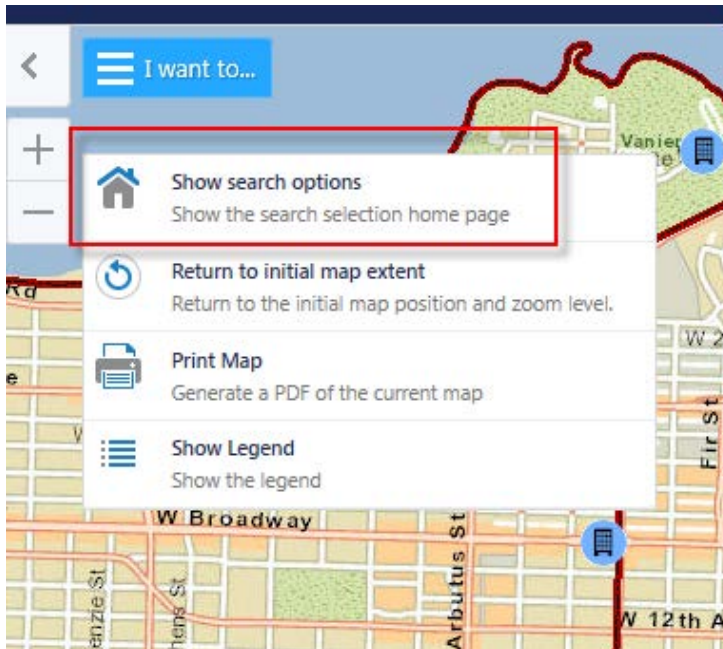



## 8. Search Options

GeoDASH allows the ability to search using different options.

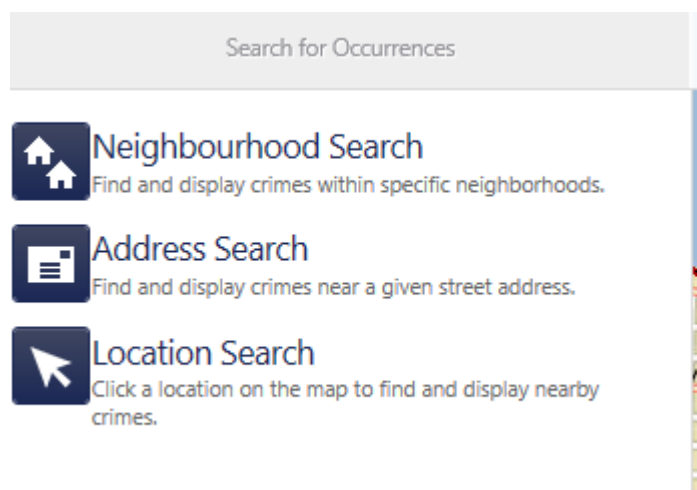
To start a search, you can either:

- Click on the “I want to” button  and select *Show search options*.



- Click the  icon located at the bottom left corner of the page.

The following Search screen is displayed.





## 8.1. Search by Neighbourhood

To search by Neighbourhood, click *Neighbourhood Search*.

a. Default is All Neighbourhoods.

The screenshot shows a search dialog box with the following elements:

- Neighbourhood:** A dropdown menu with "All neighbourhoods" selected.
- Occurrence Type:** A list of options including "BNE Commercial", "BNE Residential/Other", "Homicide", "Mischief", "Offence Against a Person", "Other Theft", "Theft from Vehicle", and "Theft of Vehicle".
- Date Range:** A dropdown menu with "Previous week" selected.
- Buttons:** "OK" and "CANCEL" buttons at the bottom.

b. Select the Neighbourhood by clicking the dropdown list. Only 1 Neighbourhood can be selected at a time.

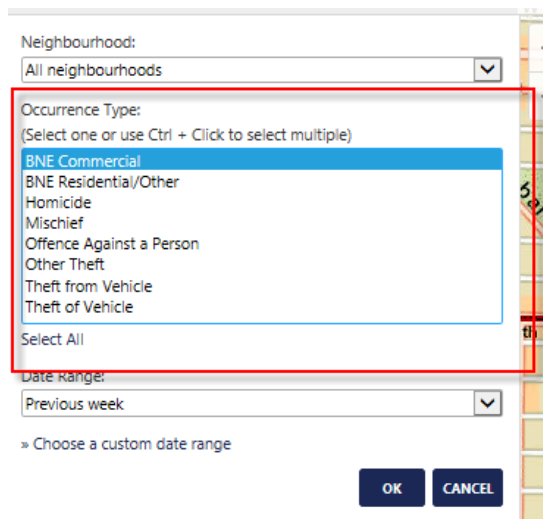
The screenshot shows the search dialog box with the neighbourhood list expanded. The list includes:

- All neighbourhoods (highlighted)
- Arbutus Ridge
- Central Business District
- Dunbar-Southlands
- Fairview
- Grandview-Woodlands
- Hastings-Sunrise
- Kensington-Cedar Cottage
- Kerrisdale
- Killarney
- Kitsilano
- Marpole
- Mount Pleasant
- Musqueam
- Oakridge
- Renfrew-Collingwood
- Riley Park
- Shaughnessy
- South Cambie
- Stanley Park
- Strathcona
- Sunset
- Victoria-Fraserview
- West End
- West Point Grey

After a successful search, the map displays the crimes

### 8.1.a.Filter by Crime Type

GeoDASH allows the ability to narrow the search to specific crime types by selecting one or more of the categories provided. The default is “BNE Commercial”.



The screenshot shows a dialog box with the following elements:

- Neighbourhood:** A dropdown menu with "All neighbourhoods" selected.
- Occurrence Type:** A list box with the instruction "(Select one or use Ctrl + Click to select multiple)". The items are: "BNE Commercial" (highlighted in blue), "BNE Residential/Other", "Homicide", "Mischief", "Offence Against a Person", "Other Theft", "Theft from Vehicle", and "Theft of Vehicle". A "Select All" option is at the bottom of the list.
- Date Range:** A dropdown menu with "Previous week" selected.
- A link: "» Choose a custom date range"
- Buttons:** "OK" and "CANCEL" buttons at the bottom right.

- To select multiple crime types, press and hold down the Ctrl key, and then click each item that you want to select.
- To select all crime types, click **Select All**.

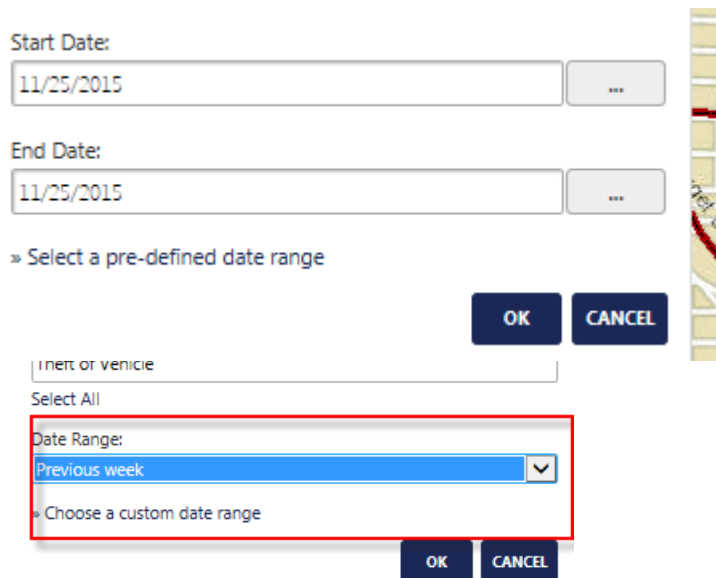
### 8.1.b.Filter by Date Range.

GeoDASH allows the ability to narrow the search by date range. The default is “Previous week”.



Note: Previous week also means the past 7 days. For example, if you are doing the crime map search on Dec 8th, previous week will be from Dec 2nd to 8th

- To change the date range, click on the dropdown and select another date range.



- To enter your own date range, click *Choose a custom date*.

Date Range:

Previous week

Choose a custom date range

## 8.2. Search by Address

To find and display crimes near a given street address, click Address Search.




The screenshot shows the GeoDASH search interface. At the top, there are three search options: 'Neighbourhood Search' (Find and display crimes within specific neighborhoods), 'Address Search' (Find and display crimes near a given street address), and 'Location Search' (Click a location on the map to find and display nearby crimes). The 'Address Search' option is highlighted with a red box. Below this, the 'Address Search' dialog box is open, also with a red box around its input fields. The dialog box contains the following fields and options:

- Street Address:** A text input field with an example: "123 Main St or W Broadway / Cambie St".
- Buffer Distance: (meters):** A dropdown menu set to "1000".
- Occurrence Type:** A list of crime types with "BNE Commercial" selected. The list includes: BNE Residential/Other, Homicide, Mischief, Offence Against a Person, Other Theft, Theft from Vehicle, and Theft of Vehicle.
- Date Range:** A dropdown menu set to "Previous week".
- A link: "» Choose a custom date range".
- Buttons: "OK" and "CANCEL".

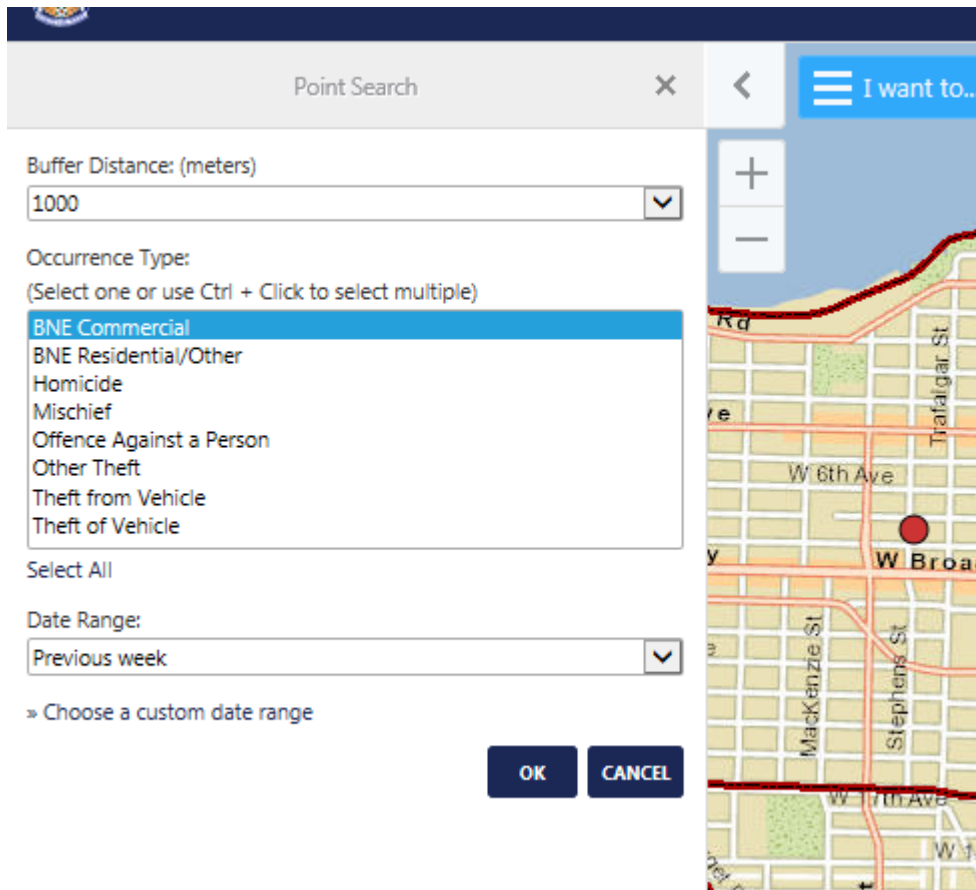
- Type an address or two streets that form an intersection.  
Example: **123 Main St** or **W Broadway / Cambie St**  
Note:
  - The address search requires the street name to match the one that is on the map.
  - The address search for intersection requires the space in between the "/", otherwise it will result in "address not found".

### 8.3. Search by Location

To find and display crimes near a location on the map.

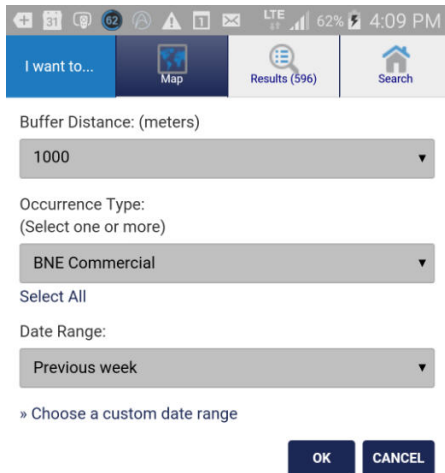
- 
**Neighbourhood Search**  
 Find and display crimes within specific neighborhoods.
- 
**Address Search**  
 Find and display crimes near a given street address.
- 
**Location Search**  
 Click a location on the map to find and display nearby crimes.

- Click a location on the map. A red dot marks the location. Select the buffer distance.



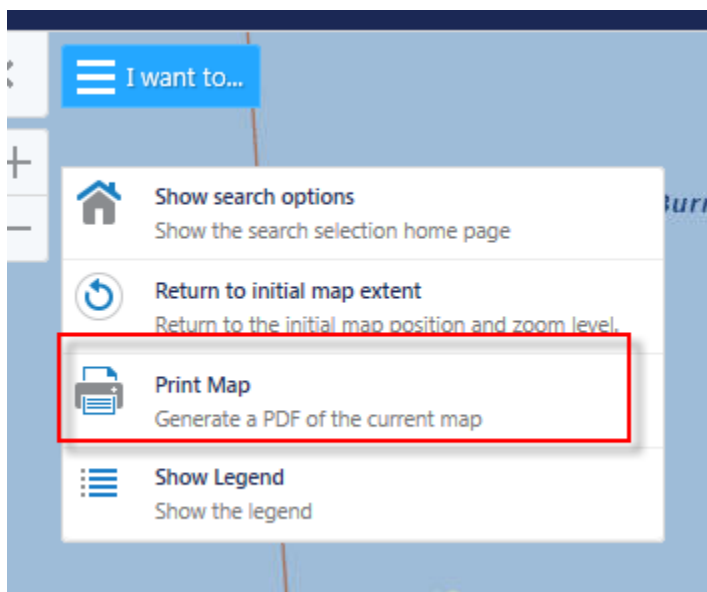
## 9. GPS Search (This feature is only available on mobile devices)

Location services on your mobile device have to be turned on in order to use this feature.



## 10. Print Map

GeoDASH provides the ability to print a copy of the map to pdf.



Create a printable map

Select Layout  
8.5 x 11 Landscape

Output Format  
Pdf

Map Scale  
Current Scale - 1: 25000

Notes

PRINT