



NEW YORK HIGH LINE, USA

The 1.5 mile High Line is a linear urban park built on an elevated freight rail line on Manhattan's west side. The urban park starts in the Meatpacking District on the west side of Lower Manhattan and continues northwards to Chelsea, ending in a loop around Hudson Yards between 30th and 34th Street. The High Line is one of the most successful urban development projects in recent years, drawing millions of visitors every year and revitalising a strip of Manhattan that had largely been ignored. The park serves as a magnet and viewing platform for interesting architecture and design solutions, for example, the relocated Whitney Museum. Due to its popularity, the park is at risk of becoming a victim of its own success – visitor forecasts predict annual visitation could reach 12.6 million by 2030 placing extreme pressure on the already congested pinch-points along the route.

A strategy is needed to futureproof the High Line – ensuring it can accommodate the expected future demand whilst providing a positive experience for

visitors, local residents and commuters. BuroHappold are engaging with key stakeholders to generate and refine a number of intervention options for the High Line. Burohappold's Smart Space have been appointed to create an interactive dashboard tool to assess and compare the impact of this series of interventions aimed at increasing capacity, spreading demand throughout the day and spreading demand along the High Line route away from the most congested areas. The dashboard incorporates data from a number of sources including visitation data, GIS, survey reports and demand forecasts, to build an evidence based model of the existing flows along the park, revealing the changing movement patterns throughout a typical day and seasonal variations throughout the year.. The highly visual and accessible tool allows rapid assessment of a number of interventions, quickly highlighting key bottlenecks, problem areas and identifying the relative contribution of key factors. The tool enables rapid optioneering and

what-if sensitivity analysis to test for expected future demand and quantify alternative operating models. Based on these assessments we are providing recommendations that mitigate future risks, with an aim to maximize operational efficiency and enhance the overall visitor experience.

CLIENT
Friends of the High Line

DURATION
2016 – ongoing

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BUROHAPPOLD
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