Social Benefits of Green Infrastructure in Parks

Green infrastructure can provide benefits to communities that help increase the bonds between community members, strengthen relationships and promote healthy lifestyles at a neighborhood-level. This happens primarily by providing communities more inviting green spaces to congregate, socialize and exercise together.

Specific to parks: A study from Chicago found that increasing the tree canopy in a park by just 10% decreased the assault and battery rate in the park by 10%, and decreased robbery, assault and narcotics usage by more than 11%.

Creating Safer Spaces
Green infrastructure in urban areas is correlated with decreased narcotics possession in surrounding areas. And planting new trees in an area can help decrease crime levels in the area over time.

Building Trust in Government
Well-managed green infrastructure in public places can increase trust and satisfaction with local government among community members, which increases over time as the assets stay well-managed.

Closer Communities
Green infrastructure can offer a space for communities to come together and increases opportunities for socialization, which can lead to increased trust between neighbors.

Engaged Communities
Offering neighborhood education about green infrastructure leads to increased community cooperation, making community members more likely to engage in social and volunteer opportunities around the neighborhood.

References: