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Contact: Alyssa Zinar  
215-568-2525  
[azinar@devinepartners.com](mailto:azinar@devinepartners.com)

## WILLOWS PARK PRESERVE WELCOMES JAMES E. MCDANIEL AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*McDaniel to lead the non-profit in rejuvenating the Willows Park and Mansion in Villanova*

Villanova, Pa. (Nov. 18, 2019) – The Willows Park Preserve announced today the appointment of James E. McDaniel as executive director. In this role, McDaniel will oversee the restoration of the Willows Mansion and guide the vision for what will become a self-sustaining dynamic community hub for public access, programming and community enrichment for all ages.

“Willows Park Preserve is thrilled to appoint James McDaniel as our first executive director.” said Tish Long, Willows Park Preserve board president. “His knowledge, expertise and experience will jumpstart our mission to revitalize the Willows, and help to create a wonderful asset for community engagement in Radnor. It is an historic step for us and will give the project a permanent, daily presence on site at the property.”

McDaniel is a seasoned management professional with more than 25 years of experience in executive management and leadership skills. Currently, he is the owner and chief operating officer of LDR Services LLC, a consulting firm dedicated to guiding public organizations and non-profit entities through project management, best business and operational practices, as well as, sustainable income sourcing.

“It brings me great pleasure to assume this new role at Willows Park Preserve,” said James E. McDaniel. “I am excited to work with the board and the community in restoring the beautiful Willows Mansion and park for the public’s enjoyment.”

Prior to his appointment as executive director of Willows Park Preserve, McDaniel has demonstrated his leadership abilities in his previous roles as director of Parks and Gardens for New Hanover County, director of Gardens and Grounds at the Callaway Gardens and Resort, head of Gardens and director of Horticulture at the Ladew Topiary Gardens, and outdoor division leader at Longwood Gardens.

McDaniel studied at the Cameron School of Business at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. In addition, he graduated with a non-traditional degree from the Longwood Garden’s Public Horticulture and Professional gardeners Program, which has accreditation with the University of Delaware and Temple University Ambler.

A native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, McDaniel now calls Philadelphia home with his wife Kim. He is an avid woodworker, outdoorsman and gentleman farmer to his farm in Millsboro Delaware.

### ***About Willows Park Preserve***

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Willows Park Preserve was founded in 2017 by a group of passionate Radnor residents who see revitalizing the Willows Mansion as an opportunity to create a public space for the people of the Greater Philadelphia Area while increasing community health and connection through expanded programming. For more information, please visit <https://willowsparkpreserve.org/>.