Will Coleman

I completed my internship with the Land Trust for Tennessee. The Land Trust is a non-profit organization that protects Tennessee’s natural and historic land through donated or occasionally purchased conservation easements. The Land Trust focuses on protecting land that is historical, recreational, a working farm, or open space for wildlife habitat and general aesthetic beauty. The Land Trust strives to protect critical parcels of land that are in risk of undergoing development. The organization can essentially be broken down into four departments. The Land Protection Department writes baseline reports and conservation easements, working directly with the landowners as well as a partnering law office to fit each conservation easement to the specifics of the property it protects. Other tasks completed by the Land Protection Department include site visits, easement compliance monitoring, creating multiple GIS maps for each property, and carefully documenting all of each property’s conservation values. The Land Protection staff is organized by region, with Project Managers for Southeastern Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, Southern Middle Tennessee, and the South Cumberland Region. The Communications Department contacts donors in order to raise funds that go towards property stewardship and acquisition. The Development Department works to promote the Land Trust mainly by organizing events to gain interest from potential land or funding donors. Finally, the Board Members of the Land Trust, composed of many influential Nashville residents and environmental activists, hold monthly meetings and give ultimate approval on putting properties under easement, fund allocation, and other side projects such as a Land Trust for
Tennessee themed book. I worked specifically within the Land Protection Department. My specific assignments included updating outdated GIS maps, creating new GIS maps for pending properties, archiving compliance letters and site visit checklists, helping with Glen Leven maintenance (Land Trust owned historic property in Nashville), helping with events, determining conservation values, drafting baseline documentation and conservation easements, and other miscellaneous tasks in and out of the office.