

continued to grow as a getaway destination.

5.3.2 Population Projections

Based on a study conducted by the University of Tennessee, the City of Pigeon Forge will grow to have 5,431 permanent residents in 2010 and 6,915 permanent residents in 2020. The percent increase is large, however since permanent population does not drive the City's demand, it is likely the increase in permanent population will largely go unnoticed compared to the growth in tourism.

Based on projections found in the City's 1101 report, by 2020 the City and surrounding area will be host to 168,000 overnight guests. This number assumes the same growth rate for the next 20 years that the City has experienced for the last 20 years, which is likely ambitious. Using a more conservative growth rate of 4% per year, the City could expect to see 79,000 overnight tourists in 2013 years and 117,000 in 2023 years. Figure 5.1 shows the expected growth in population as overnight population. The shaded region represents a range of the most likely overnight populations. Table 5.1 summaries the expected overnight populations.

Table 5.1
Population Projections