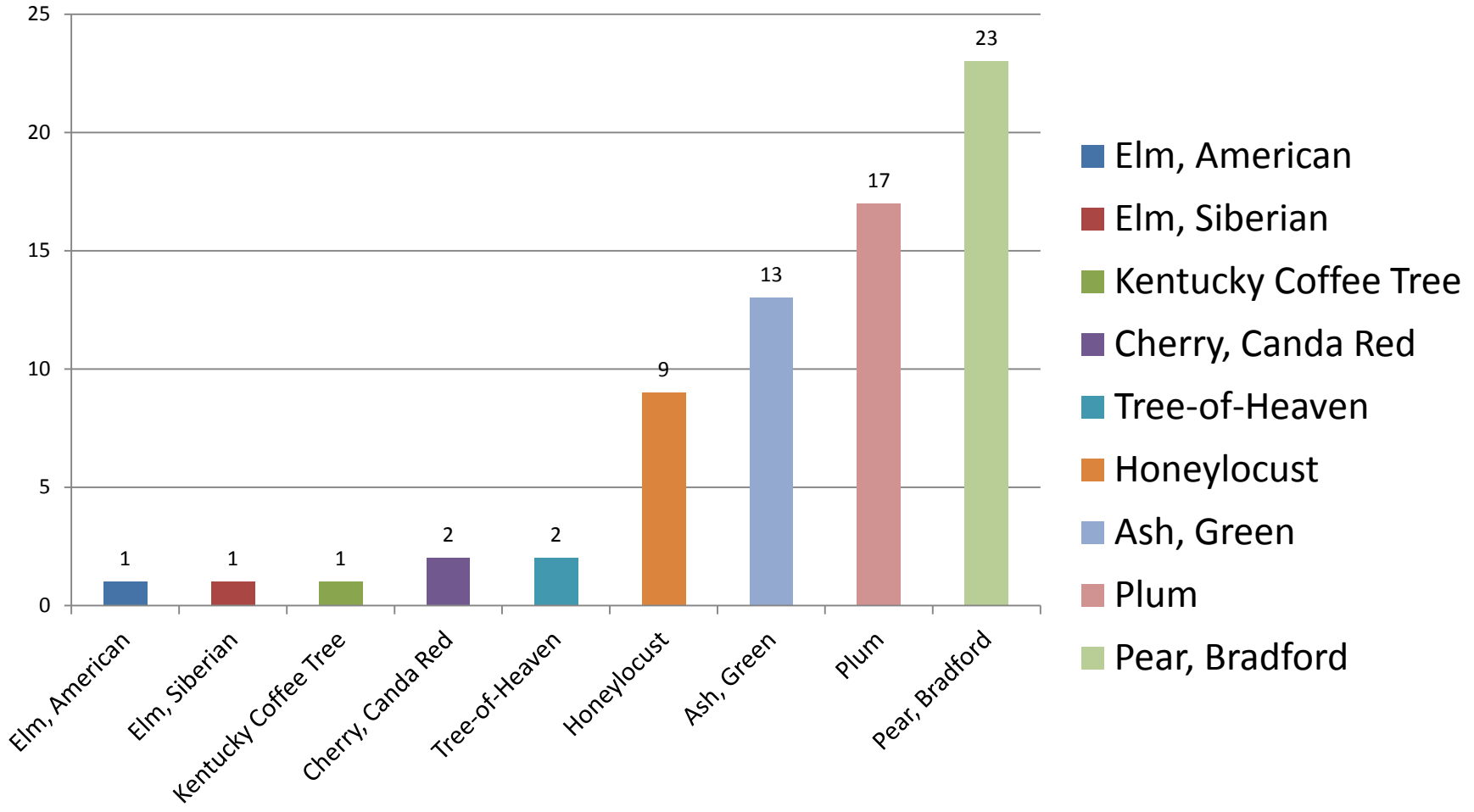


La Junta Downtown Street Tree Inventory

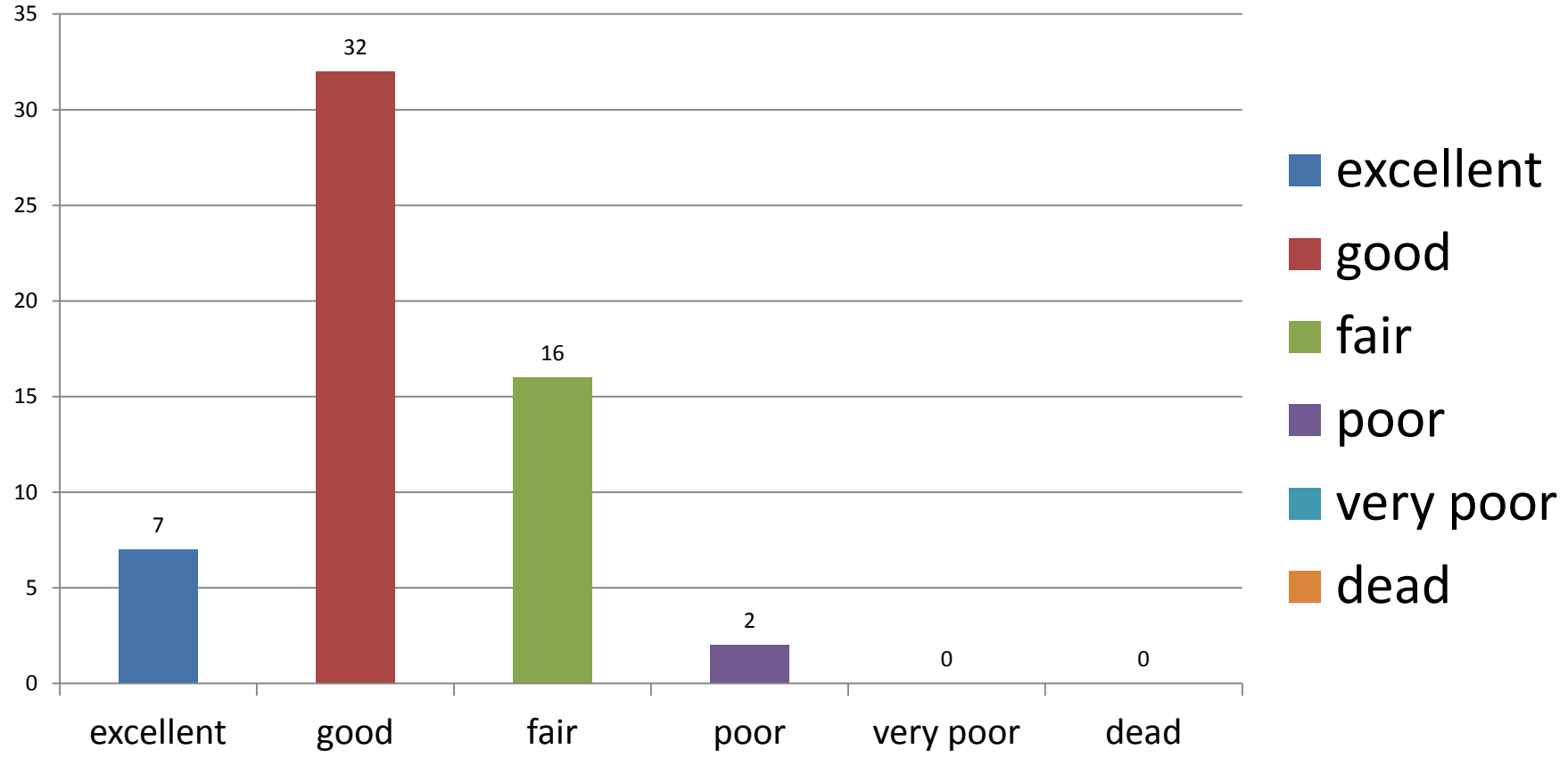


**Report to La Junta Urban Renewal Authority
July 14th, 2011**

Tree Diversity

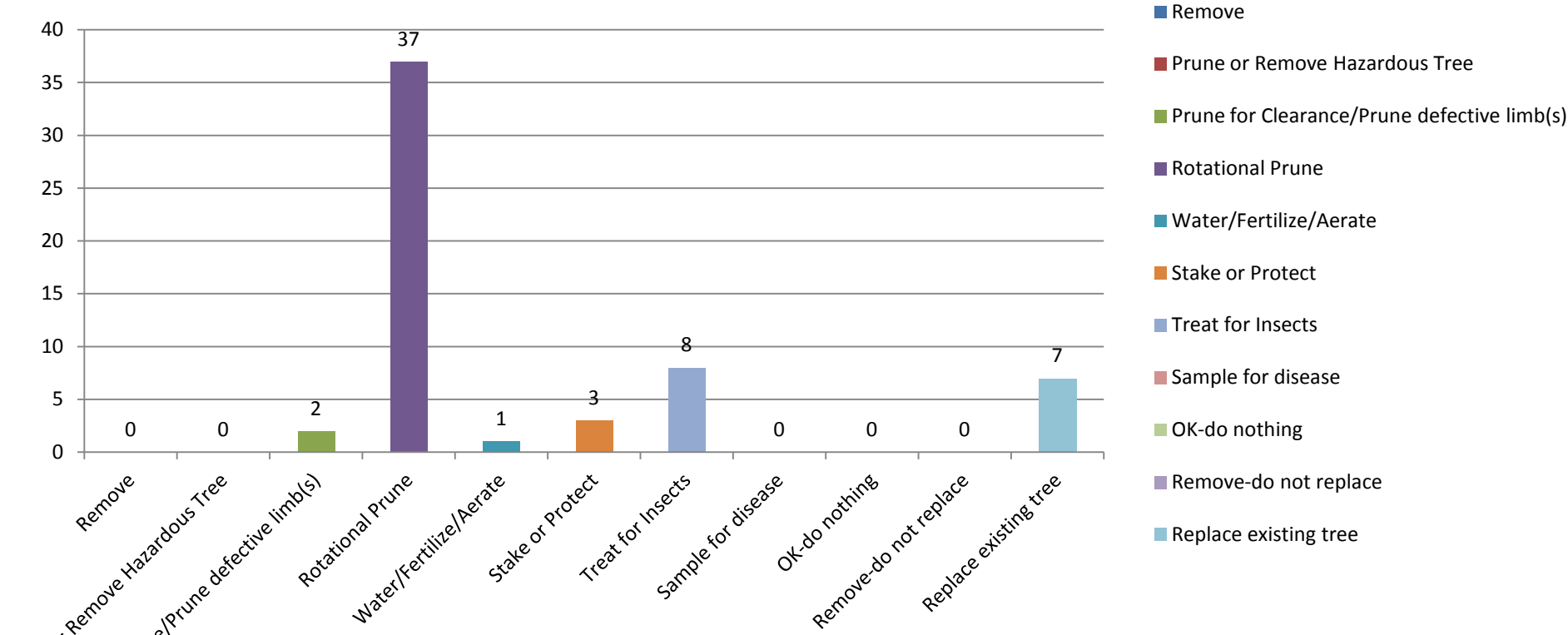


Tree Condition



La Junta Downtown Street Tree Inventory 2011

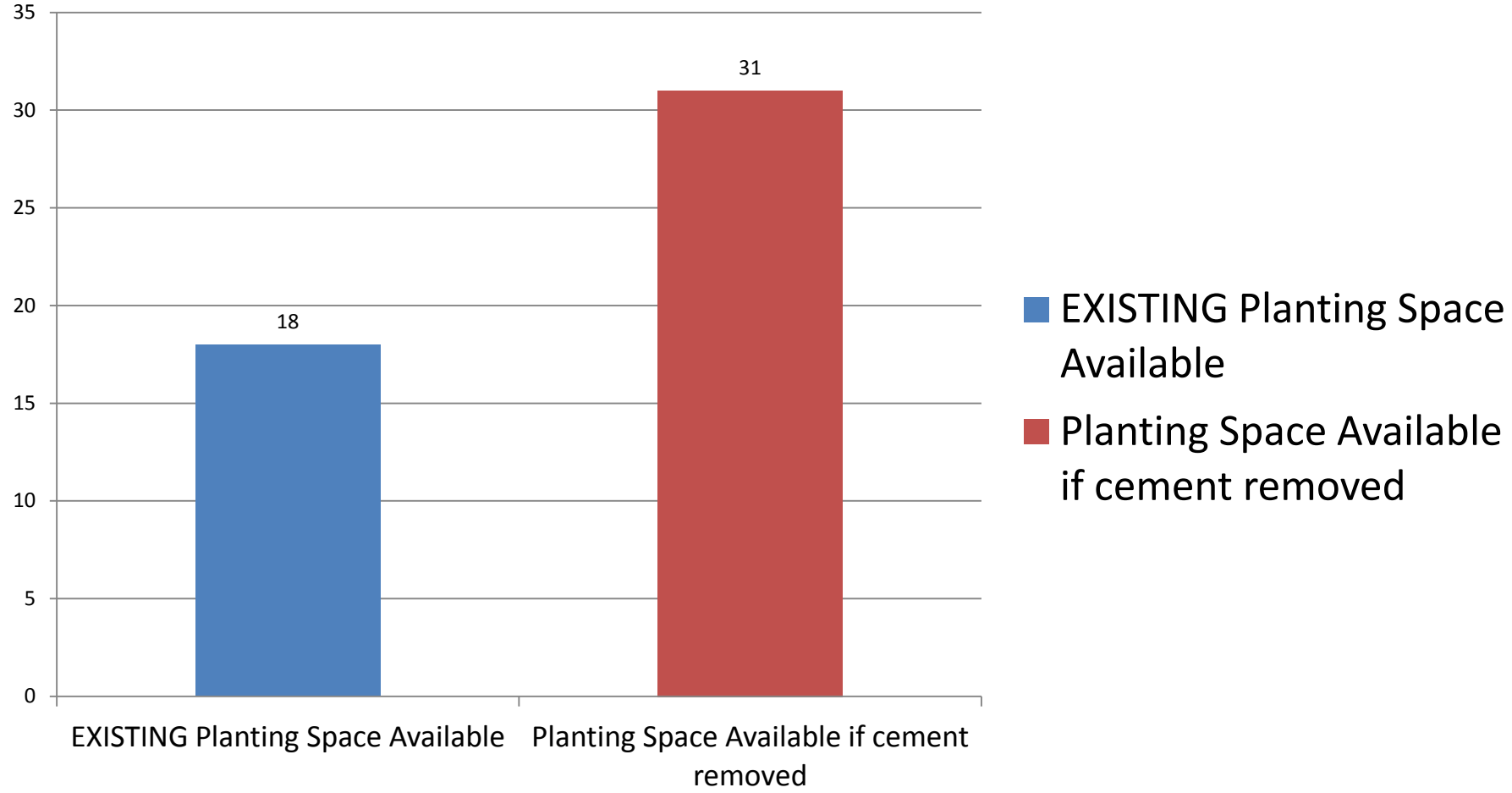
*Immediate Management Needs



*Management Needs Applicable to All Trees

- Removal of tree grates
- Rotational Pruning

Planting Spaces Available = 49



Summary Comments/Suggestions

Immediate Direct Actions

- **Remove Tree Grates**

tree grates:

- create a tripping hazard
- girdle tree trunks
- compromise the structure of the tree by damaging the root flare

- **Rotational Prune All Trees**

- Create a bi-annual rotational pruning schedule; prune each tree every other year
- Prune for structure, clearance, dead/diseased
- However, correct pruning practices are a MUST!!
- Consult with CSFS on proper pruning practices
- Train specific individuals and assign them to be responsible for pruning

Immediate Direct Actions...continued

- **Plant trees in available planting spaces**
- **For existing trees that need removed, REPLACE them with another tree**

General Guidelines for Selecting and Planting Street Trees

- Select appropriate species for the site
- Trees need space for the root flare/root system
- Generally, a 4'x4' space is adequate for small maturing trees
- However, if more space is available, planting a larger maturing tree can be appropriate as well
- Consider visual clearance at intersections
- Consider interference with utilities:
underground/overhead/gas meters, etc.
- Consider things like light poles
- Must work with City Engineer to make sure all codes are met

Considerations for Space Expansion of an Existing Tree or Removing Cement to Plant a New Tree

- Make sure ADA (and other engineering codes/standards can still be met)
- Expanding a tree space is probably cheaper than removing the tree and replacing with cement
- For a small maturing tree, a 4'x4' space is strongly recommended
- For a large maturing tree, a 6'x6' space is strongly recommended
- However, the spaces do not have to be “square”
- For example, for an existing tree that would benefit from space expansion, evaluate the horizontal potential for expansion as well as vertical—a “rectangle” might work just as well

Summary Comments/Suggestions

Planning for Successful, Long-term Sidewalk Planting

- All parties involved agree that street trees are an important asset to the Town (local government, businesses, citizens)
- Selected trees will fit in the horizontal and vertical available space AT MATURITY
- Selected trees will tolerate the harsh growing conditions (radiant heat, minimal watering)
- Trees will be planted in a spot that will allow them to be an asset and thrive
- Develop a simple maintenance plan that is easily implemented (e.g. rotational pruning, supplemental watering, mulching). The tree board can play critical role in developing and implementing this maintenance plan
- Have a short term goal of replacing trees and planting in available spaces
- Have a long term goal of planning for increasing the number of street trees