Ground-breaking ceremonies were held yesterday for Pelican Park, a $1.8 million softball and sports complex located in Carencro on Prejean Road, 0.25 miles west of Highway 1982 (Carencro Highway).

Pelican Park, a development of Herbert E. Schilling, II, will feature four softball fields in a wagon wheel design with fenced distances set at 300 feet. A unique feature of the complex will be the use of SuperTurf (artificial surface) on the infields, thus eliminating softball's biggest enemy—rainouts.

A three story structure, centered between the four fields, will house a full line concession stand, pro shop, arcade, dressing rooms, rest rooms, lounge, press boxes, and offices. An additional feature, which will add to spectacular comfort, will be the use of decked areas between all four fields. These decked areas will create shaded areas for spectators viewing all games.

The new facility, scheduled for completion in April 1984, will conduct leagues Monday thru Friday, and tournaments each weekend, and will be the premier softball facility in America, stated Mr. Schilling.

Plans are underway to host several national tournaments at Pelican Park, one of which is "Cajun Classic," a national invitational tournament held Memorial Day Weekend. Numerous state, regional, and divisional tournaments have shown interest in moving their respective tournaments to the prestigious facility.

The food service area will have a complete menu, ranging from a "ball park hot dog" to various plate lunches each day. The second floor lounge will serve mixed drinks as well as the usual beverages and will be air conditioned for both player and spectator comfort. The lounge will also feature T.V. viewing and frozen drink machines.

Computerized scorekeeping and statistics will also be featured at the new facility. At the completion of each day of league play or the conclusion of each tournament game, updated statistics will be tabulated by the onsite computer and posted. Whereas tournament statistics took days to tabulate, with the use of a computer, an all-tournament team can be picked at the conclusion of each tournament.

The managing partners for Pelican Park are Robert Boudreaux, Ronnie Broussard, and Raymond Richard.

The architectural firm in charge of the project is Lindrea S. Howes & Associates, and the general contractor is J.B. Mouton & Sons.